

RECORDATUR

GRANTS REVIEW BOARD VISITS THE LIBRARY OF VIRGINIA

Since the creation of the Circuit Court Records Preservation Program, presidents of the Virginia Court Clerks' Association have appointed clerks to the CCRP Grants Review Board. The board's job is to examine applications submitted in each semi-annual grant cycle to determine whether and, if so, how the projects should be funded. For fiscal year 2009, the clerks are Becky Johnson, John Frey, and Frank Hargrove Jr., respectively from Bland, Fairfax, and Hanover Counties. They join the Library of Virginia's Conley Edwards, State Archivist, and Carl Childs, Local Records Services director, to complete the board. On October 30, 2008, these clerks gathered at the Library for an orientation session, a behind-the-scenes tour, and a meeting with the Librarian of Virginia, Sandy Treadway.

FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: State Librarian Sandy Treadway meets the clerks of the review board, John Frey, Becky Johnson, and Frank Hargrove Jr.

The clerks began their tour by observing local records archivists processing historical court records. They glimpsed some recent fascinating finds, including post-mortem photographs of a murder victim, a deed signed by James Madison, a newly rediscovered Wythe County cohabitation register, and an elegant plat that will soon be online along with the rest of Bland County's chancery records. A demonstration of the Chancery Records Index helped show the results of the massive scanning projects undertaken by Local Records Services. The next stop was Special Collections where division director Tom Camden showed off some of the Library's most treasured acquisitions—a restored volume from Thomas Jefferson's personal library and a collection of his letters, as well as the 1803 application by Bushrod Washington to the Mutual Assurance Society of Virginia for a policy to cover Mount Vernon.

The clerks were then shown the Conservation Lab, where damaged documents, maps, and books from the Library's collection are carefully repaired, and, following that, they visited the microfilming facility, where documents, ...SEE BOARD VISIT, PAGE 5

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Special Collections director Tom Camden shows our visitors the 1803 application by Bushrod Washington to the Mutual Assurance Society of Virginia for a policy to cover Mount Vernon.

RECORDATUR

“An entry made on record to prevent any alteration of Record”

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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DIRECTOR'S CORNER

was raided to the tune of \$1.25 million. We were notified early in December that the money was transferred to the general fund “to support circuit court costs associated with the criminal fund.” Though this was a major hit to the program, we will continue to provide a high level of service to your offices. By all accounts, 2009 will likely be another rough year for all of Virginia’s public servant, but here’s hoping that better times will be here soon.

On a happier note, the digital chancery initiative continues successfully. We now have digital images of chancery causes posted for 17 localities and have well over 2 million images scanned. We will continue to provide updates as that work progresses.

I want to welcome the clerks who have agreed to serve on the 2008–2009 CCRP Grants Review Board. They are Rebecca Johnson of Bland County, John Frey of Fairfax County, and Frank Hargrove of Hanover County. We were quite pleased to host them at the Library in October for a grant orientation session and tour of the archives. Please see Rachel Muse’s article and pictures documenting their visit. The three clerks join State Archivist Conley Edwards and me as voting members of the review board. The board had its first meeting in November and awarded 45 preservation grants in the amount of \$640,695.81. Please see the summary of awards in this newsletter for full details.

The deadline for the next round of grant application is fast approaching on April 15, so let us know if you have a grant proposal you need help with. Call Glenn Smith or Rachel Muse for assistance in developing your grant. As always, please let us know if you have any questions or concerns.

All the best to you and yours in 2009!

—Carl Childs
Local Records Services Director

Welcome to the new, online version of the Recordatur! You may be wondering why you have not received your usual paper copy of the circuit court newsletter. State agencies recently were directed to publish documents in electronic format only, in order to eliminate unnecessary publishing costs. The directive, issued from Wayne Turnage, the governor’s chief of staff, states that as of January 6, 2009, “there shall be no further use of State resources (either general or non-general funds) to pay for the printing of documents.” As a result, you will be receiving electronic copies of the Recordatur via an e-mail issued from Library of Virginia grant staff. We hope that this arrangement will prove satisfactory to everyone.

I want to take this opportunity to wish each of you a happy new year and pass on my best wishes for a successful 2009. Like all of you, we at the Library were anxiously awaiting the budget news coming out of the governor’s office and the General Assembly session. The Library has already received two reductions to its general fund budget in the past year. Additionally, I wanted to pass on the unfortunate news that the Circuit Court Records Preservation Program fund

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE LIBRARY OF VIRGINIA

News and Stories from the Library's Local Records Archivists

Business Records Reveal the Lives of Ironworking Slaves

Born in 1780 in Pennsylvania, William Weaver was a prominent and successful ironmaster in Virginia and one of the largest slaveholders in Rockbridge County. In July 1814, Weaver made a chance investment in the Virginia iron industry along with his new partner, Thomas Mayburry. Weaver and Mayburry purchased, from William Wilson, Union Forge (later renamed Buffalo Forge), located in Rockbridge County, and two blast furnaces, Etna Furnace and Retreat Furnace, in neighboring Botetourt County.

The two furnace properties were in decline when Weaver and Mayburry made their purchase, but Weaver succeeded in putting Etna Furnace into blast in 1815, thus ensuring that Union Forge would have a steady supply of pig iron. Initially, Weaver staffed his furnaces with a mixture of white laborers and hired slaves, but in October 1815 Weaver purchased 11 slaves. Included among those slaves was a valuable ironworker named Tooler, and Weaver would use this group of slaves to form the basis of his large crew of skilled ironworkers.

While examining volumes found at the Augusta County Courthouse recently, I discovered nine volumes that belonged to Weaver and his iron interests. These were most likely brought in as exhibits in a chancery case between Weaver and his partner. Weaver and Mayburry's partnership had a rather acrimonious dissolution, with contention over who owned the slaves purchased from John Wilson, a son of William Wilson. In a cagey move, Weaver had the bill of sale for the slaves made out to himself, rather than to the partnership of Weaver & Mayburry, claiming that Mayburry was against slave ownership.

The volumes that compose the William Weaver Business Records cover a variety of topics and document the purchases Weaver and Mayburry made while establishing their iron interests in Virginia, track the cash received and disbursed by Weaver, and record customer purchases of iron. But it is the details concerning the slaves living and working at Etna Furnace and Union Forge found throughout the records that make these volumes so unique. Weaver documented expenses paid for hiring slaves by listing their bond prices, recording the purchases of clothing and blankets for the slaves, and frequently mentioning payments made to "negroes for overwork."

Weaver's volumes often record payments made to slaves who performed more than their required

amount of work. Slaves were compensated with their choice of either cash or goods from the ironmaster's store for their extra labor or "overwork." To earn these funds slaves would perform such extra work as cording wood or working on Sunday or Christmas. They used their extra funds to purchase small luxury items such as sugar, coffee, tobacco, shoes, trousers, coats, cloth, or household items. Records like the Etna Furnace Negro Book illustrate the priorities of slaves and the choices they made with the funds they controlled themselves—providing a rare and invaluable glimpse into the private lives of slaves, one that would otherwise not exist without such records.

—Bari Helms
Local Records Archivist

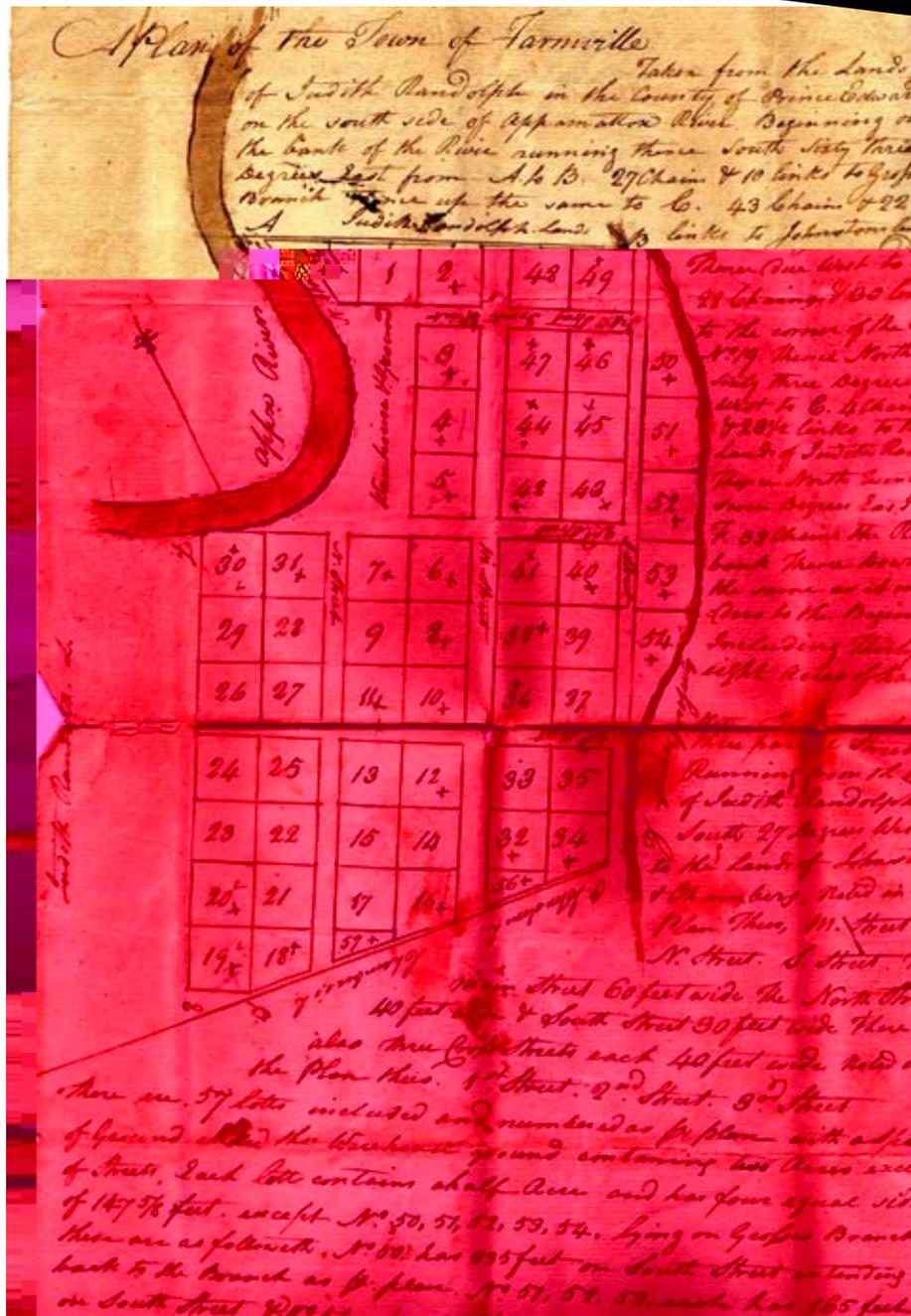
Plat Shows the Birth of a Town

This plat (RIGHT) shows the plan for the town of Farmville, surveyed and drawn by John Woodson on June 9, 1798. Land for the town was taken from Bizarre Plantation, home of Judith Cary Randolph and her two young sons, Tudor and John St. George.

Farmville and 15 other towns were established by an act of the Virginia legislature on January 15, 1798. Half-acre lots were drawn off and offered for sale by Judith Randolph. Purchasers were required to develop the lots within seven years.

The land was taken from the Farmlands section of the plantation, which gave the town its name.

Acting on her behalf, Judith Randolph's brother-in-law John Randolph became a charter trustee of Farmville. In 1810, he moved to his own estate, Roanoke, in Charlotte County. Judith Randolph remained at Bizarre Plantation until 1813, when the house was destroyed by fire. She died in Richmond in 1816. Her son Tudor died of tuberculosis at Harvard College. Her other son, John St. George, was born deaf and remained mute. He was confined for most of his life to an insane asylum.



Plan of the Town of Farmville, surveyed in 1798 and recorded in 1804. Local Government Records Collection, Prince Edward County Court Records, Library of Virginia.

As Richard Randolph's widow, Judith Randolph played a part in overseeing the emancipation of 100 slaves freed by Randolph in his will. Richard Randolph also granted the freed slaves land known as Israel Hill, west of Farmville.

Farmville grew quickly as a market center along the Appomattox River, the major shipping route connecting central Virginia with commercial ports in the eastern part

of the state. The arrival of the South Side Railroad in 1854 secured the town's place as the center of commerce in the county. In 1871, the county seat was moved to Farmville from the village of Worsham.

—Catherine O'Brien
Local Records Archivist

... court records, are filmed for preservation. The clerk met with Photographic Services manager and had the opportunity to peruse prints of unique photographs and illustrations from the Library's collections and to discuss selected projects he and his staff are undertaking.

Following the tour, the clerks met with grants coordinator Glenn Smith for their orientation. The board members were given copies of the just-submitted applications to review—a hefty task, since 45 were received this past cycle. The board convened in November to determine each application's outcome. The members can request further information before awarding or rejecting a project. This time, none were rejected. The awards are listed below.

While the clerk members of this term's CCRP Grants Review Board toured the Library of Virginia as part of their training, Local Records Services would like to invite all circuit court clerks and their staff members for their own behind-the-scenes visit. Contact Rachel Muse at 804.786.6356 or rachel.muse@lva.virginia.gov to schedule a time.

—Rachel Muse
Senior Local Records Archivist

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Locality	Project Type	Awarded
Tazewell County	Preservation - Storage	7,886.40
Albemarle County	Item Conservation - Book	4,943.00
Amelia County	Item Conservation - Book	4,735.00
Bedford County	Item Conservation - Book	4,634.00
Brunswick County	Item Conservation - Book	11,425.00
Buckingham County	Item Conservation - Book	4,410.00
Charlotte County	Item Conservation - Book	4,720.00
Chesapeake City	Item Conservation - Book	4,236.00
Culpeper County	Item Conservation - Book	4,102.00
Danville City	Item Conservation - Book	13,890.00
Dinwiddie County	Item Conservation - Book	9,816.00
Goochland County	Item Conservation - Book	4,965.00
Isle of Wight County	Item Conservation - Book	5,476.00
Loudoun County	Item Conservation - Book	13,073.00
Lunenburg County	Item Conservation - Book	4,900.00
Montgomery County	Item Conservation - Book	4,480.00
Nottoway County	Item Conservation - Book	2,430.00
Pittsylvania County	Item Conservation - Book	4,995.00
Prince Edward County	Item Conservation - Book	4,348.00
Pulaski County	Item Conservation - Book	4,999.00
Rockingham County	Item Conservation - Book	6,730.70
Russell County	Item Conservation - Book	4,750.00
Scott County	Item Conservation - Book	4,708.00
Southampton County	Item Conservation - Book	1,380.00
Surry County	Item Conservation - Book	1,934.00
Virginia Beach City	Item Conservation - Book	4,882.00
Wise County	Item Conservation - Book	4,630.00

Total: \$640,695.81

Awarded as of December 30, 2008

\$13,518,865.22

871 projects

Project Type	Amount Awarded	Amount %	# Awarded	# %
Item Conservation	1,886,707.06	14.0%	290	33.3%
Preservation	369,133.54	2.7%	52	6.0%
Processing	2,281,985.47	16.9%	139	16.0%
Reader/Printer	839,716.94	6.2%	70	8.0%
Reformatting	7,123,817.15	52.7%	201	23.1%
Security System	1,017,505.06	7.5%	119	13.7%
	13,518,865.22	100%	871	100%