

State Library Conservation and Reformatting Grant

A major goal of the Yorktown Preservation Society has been the restoration of York County records which date from 1633, making them some of the oldest in the state. Beginning in 1921, The APVA Yorktown Branch, (now the Yorktown Preservation Society,) has been restoring York County records from 1645 to 1908.

On the state level, the Library of Virginia created the Virginia Circuit Courts Records Preservation Program for the same purpose. Some of the nation's oldest and most vital legal records are housed in Virginia's 120 circuit court clerks' offices. However, these records are under constant threat from natural and man-made disasters, format and technology obsolescence, and require constant monitoring and care to ensure their preservation for future generations. This sustained effort has been achieved through continued cooperation between state and local governments. This successful partnership has been responsible for numerous beneficial projects over the years, including the scanning of over seven million Virginia chancery documents for 57 localities to date.

The Circuit Court Records Preservation Program (CCRP) is a part of the Library of Virginia's Local Records Services Branch. Funded through a \$1.50 of the clerk's recordation fee, the CCRP provides resources to help preserve and make accessible permanent circuit court records. The program awards grants to the commonwealth's circuit court clerks to help them address the needs of the records housed in their localities.

Last spring, York County Clerk of Court, Kristen Nelson, applied to the Circuit Court Records Preservation Program for a conservation and reformatting grant. Kristen is now very pleased to announce that the grant was approved in the amount of \$23,374.00. The following records will not only go through the conservation process, but will also be reformatted into a digital version for easier access.

- **Deed Book 24, containing records from 1897-1900**
- **Marriage Register 1, containing records from 1854-1928**
- **Will Book 15, containing records from 1889-1897**
- **Wills and Inventories 19, containing records from 1740-1746**
- **Wills and Inventories 22, containing records from 1771-1783**

YPS congratulates Kristen, for her efforts to ensure that records of our local history will be available to all future generations and to researchers everywhere.