

FAIRFAXCOUNTY

VIRGINIA

Found in the Archives no. 113 Circuit Court Historic Records Center

Historic Records Center Scanner Update



It has been one year since Historic Records Center acquired a new scanner, the Zeutschel OS C 1. During that time **HRC has scanned over 20,500 pages of court records!** This large format overhead scanner allows us to digitize numerous records we were previously unable to scan due to their large size. Note the size of the scanner compared to the computer monitor! It has also enhanced the quality of scans. For many of the large records, the only digitally available before were extremely low-quality.

Scanning is a priority and major task for the Historic Record Center.

Figure 1 - Zeutschel scanner OS C1.

Scanning assists with archival preservation:

With the new scanner, 9,215 land tax book pages were digitized from the late 19th century until the early 1930s. These books are not only large but are also some of our most fragile items. Digitizing these allows less handling of the originals until they can be conserved.

Additionally, 9,250 real estate atlas pages were scanned. The real estate atlases date to the 1950s and 1960s and detail the lots and streets of various subdivisions throughout the county.

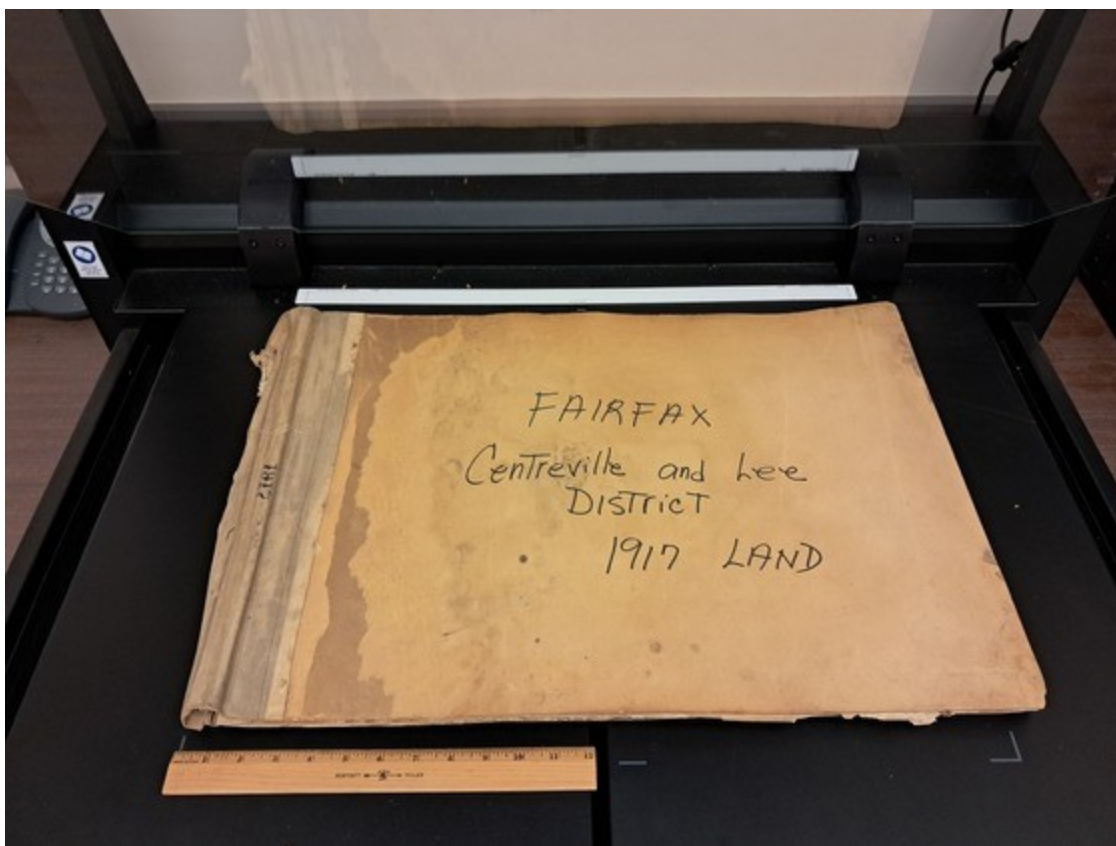


Figure 2 - 1917 Land book on scanner. A ruler is place beside it to demonstrate it large size.

Scanning increases accessibility:

Digitized records are available to look at HRC or by a specific request. While currently only available through HRC, having them digitized will allow more than one researcher to look at a document at a time and will allow those who cannot come in person to receive digital copies easily and quickly. Having digitized much of the 19th and early 19th century items in the collection already, these scans provide insight into Fairfax in the 20th century. Having digitized copies of these records is therefore assisting researchers quickly and effectively.

The General Index to Criminal Cases, Chancery Cases, and Law cases have been scanned for the **first time**. This consists of over 2,000 pages scanned. The majority are cases heard between 1930s and 1950s. This assists researchers in identifying cases and where files are within the archives. It will assist researchers who request materials from offsite. Having a digital copy is important for accessibility and preservation.

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Figure 3 - Late 19th century Minute Book Index scanned with new scanner

In one year over 50 books comprising of more than 20,500 pages scanned. While amazing, scans are not just statistics! **Scanning projects allow for easier research, increased accessibility, higher quality copies, and preserve original, often fragile, artifacts.** In the future, indexes and transcriptions can be created using digitized files and many of these digitized records will be uploaded to CPAN for CPAN subscribers.

HRC loves the new scanner, and we hope you do too! Next time you are in also give a huge thank you to HRC staff member Gina who accomplished all this scanning over the past year! And keep a look out for tax records indexes on our website in the near future as they are currently being transcribed by Sammi.