

Technology updates records from 1700s

Johnston County Register of Deeds Craig Olive leader in accessible public records

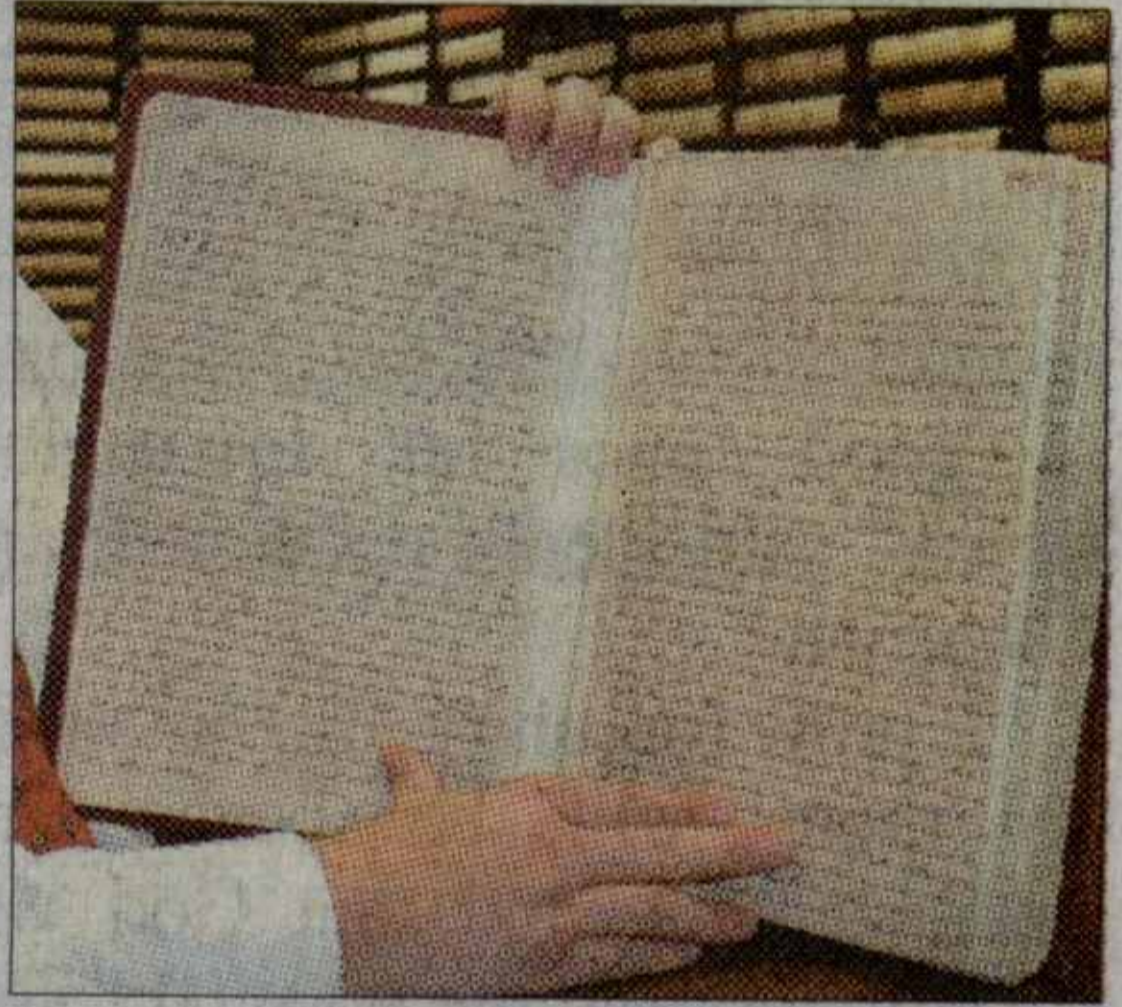
By Cami Jo Narron
News Editor

The Johnston County Register of Deeds office now offers free on-line public records searching of land records, indexes and images dating back to the mid-1700s through today. The information is available round-the-clock from any home computer, said Craig Olive, register of deeds.

“It’s very accessible,” said Olive. “It’s user friendly and people love the new system. I’m very proud of the decision to use Aptitude Solution’s recording system which not only provides easier access to public records but is also saving Johnston County about \$300,000 over five years and increasing production in the office.”

Cost savings come from not having to purchase the large index books, some that cost \$500 each, that then had to be hand-recorded, and from the office discontinuing the use of more expensive computer programs. The current system is an all-in-one program, said Olive, compared to purchasing an average of 15, \$500 books each year and those were just the day-books that recorded what came in.

Records from 1940 to the



Olive shows one of the old handwritten ledgers.

present are fully on-line and records from 1700 to 1939 have been prepared and are going on line now. Bowman Enterprises in Benson scanned the county’s old records.

The new system allows any brand new documents to be scanned in office, recorded and returned to customers within minutes instead of days to weeks. Olive also is proud of the fact that the office, which would see up to 150 documents to be processed each day, no longer has stacks and stacks of documents lying around.

It was no small feat to process over 270 years of documents and

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