



LIBRARY OF VIRGINIA

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Library of Virginia to Conserve Gov. Thomas Nelson's Papers Through Save America's Treasures Grant

RICHMOND, VIRGINIA - The Library of Virginia Foundation has been awarded a \$299,217 Save America's Treasures grant in support of a Library of Virginia project to conserve and digitize the executive papers of Thomas Nelson, Virginia's fourth governor, elected in 1781.

The award, funded by the National Park Service, in partnership with the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA), the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) and the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), was announced as part of \$25 million in Save America's Treasures grants from the Historic Preservation Fund. The grants support 58 projects in 26 states, the Virgin Islands and the District of Columbia that will preserve nationally significant sites and collections.

"These grants preserve and conserve nationally significant properties and collections to tell a more complete story of America and its people," said NPS Director Chuck Sams. "Preserving these historic places and collections ensures the generations of today and tomorrow can enjoy and learn from the diverse stories across time and place in America's history."

The Library's project will involve the conservation and digitization of 2,048 documents from Thomas Nelson's partial term as governor of Virginia between June 12 and November 22 in 1781, when he confronted the challenges at the end of the Revolutionary War, the formation of the nation and the daily operations of a newly-formed state. The papers were laminated in the 1940s and were not properly deacidified prior to lamination, contributing to an accelerated deterioration.

Nelson's papers consist of correspondence primarily relating to the Revolutionary War, including letters from prominent figures such as the Marquis de Lafayette, George Washington and Nathanael Greene, and the siege of Yorktown, arms, ammunition and the militia. The documents also include accounts, receipts, proclamations, appointments, resolutions of Congress & the Virginia House of Delegates, acts, orders, depositions, petitions, recommendations, commissions, certificates, returns, and other sundry items.

"These papers are an important part of Virginia's and the nation's early history and we hope to share them with the public for centuries yet to come," said Librarian of Virginia Sandra Treadway. "We are grateful to receive this highly competitive award that will allow us to conserve these significant historical treasures."

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The project is the Library's second initiative to receive funding through the Save America's Treasures grant program. The Library received its first grant in 2011 to conserve and digitize the gubernatorial papers of Thomas Jefferson.

"The Library is grateful for this incredible support through the Save America's Treasures program," said Scott Dodson, executive director of the Library of Virginia Foundation. "As we approach the 250th Anniversary of the United States, it is more important than ever to conserve and make available papers like those of Thomas Nelson and other founding fathers. While these men were not perfect, original papers from Nelson and the other founding fathers in the Library's collection, provide a unique window into the revolutionary period. This project exemplifies the Library's vision of engaging Virginia's past to empower its future."

Save America's Treasures is a matching grant program that requires dollar-for-dollar matching with nonfederal funds. This award will cover the bulk of the conservation work for this project. The Library is currently raising \$100,000 in additional support to complete work on the Thomas Nelson Papers. The Library's grant will be administered by IMLS.

ABOUT THE LIBRARY OF VIRGINIA FOUNDATION

Founded in 1984, the Library of Virginia Foundation supports the Library of Virginia and its mission by raising private financial support, managing its endowment, and overseeing programming that brings Virginia's history and culture to life. Learn more at www.lvafoundation.org.

ABOUT THE LIBRARY OF VIRGINIA

The Library of Virginia is the state's oldest institution dedicated to the preservation of Virginia's history and culture. Our online offerings attract nearly 4 million website visits per year, and our resources, exhibitions and events bring in nearly 100,000 visitors each year. The Library's collections, containing more than 130 million items, document and illustrate the lives of both famous Virginians and ordinary citizens. The Library is located in downtown Richmond near Capitol Square at 800 East Broad Street, Richmond, VA 23219. Learn more at www.lva.virginia.gov.

ABOUT THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

More than 20,000 National Park Service employees care for America's 425 national parks and work with communities across the nation to help preserve local history and create close-to-home recreational opportunities. Learn more at www.nps.gov, and on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [Twitter](#), and [YouTube](#).

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