

In 2012, the Library Development and Networking Division at the Library of Virginia started a project that included loaning scanners and computers to Virginia libraries in the hope of bringing to light hidden local history collections housed in public libraries. Once the pilot project of scanning material at eleven libraries was completed, it became evident that school yearbooks made up the bulk of the scanning at the local libraries.

On February 2, 2017, the Petersburg Public Library started its participation in the yearbook scanning project. Copies of the Petersburg High School yearbook, *The Missile*, were delivered to the Library of Virginia staff to be digitized. Due to the generosity of several people, copies of the Peabody High School yearbook were also delivered to the Library of Virginia staff. The Petersburg High School yearbook collection came from the Library collection, the Petersburg High School Collection and a 1976 graduate of Petersburg High School. The Peabody High School yearbooks were donated to the Library by William Townes and Conzata Turner. Mr. Townes is the nephew of Miss Grayce Townes, the librarian at Peabody High School for over forty years. Mrs. Turner was a teacher at Peabody High School and Petersburg High School and resides in Petersburg.

The Petersburg High School yearbooks include the years 1912-1977. The Peabody High School yearbooks include the years 1950-1977 and included yearbooks published during the years Peabody was a junior high school.

The digitization project was started and continues to be funded with grants provided by the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA). The Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), whose mission is to create strong libraries and museums that connect people with ideas, administers the LSTA funds.

Researchers are now able to access the yearbooks from the Petersburg Public Library website at www.ppls.org. To learn more about the yearbook digitization project, visit www.virginiamemory.com.

