



Charles L. Reel
EDGEFIELD COUNTY CLERK OF COURT
P. O. BOX 34
EDGEFIELD, SC 29824
PHONE: (803) 637-4080
FAX: (803) 637-4117

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To: Edgefield County Council
Roger LeDuc, County Administrator

REF: Proposal to place Archives under Clerk of Court

Edgefield County Council Members and Mr. LeDuc:

Edgefield County (established 1785) has one of the oldest and most complete collections of historical county records in South Carolina. The Edgefield County Archives Department is dedicated solely to the housing and protection of these records. The purpose of the Edgefield County Archives is to collect, preserve, and make available the permanently valuable official records of the county in accordance with the County Council Resolution of 00-01-243 of June 13th 2001. The facility includes a research room and a state-of-the-art 1,668 square ft. records vault that is fire proof and climate-controlled (Edgefield County Website; <https://edgefieldcounty.sc.gov/recreation-2-3-3/>).

At the present time, the Edgefield County Archives is under the County Administrator. Tonya Guy, an employee with the Edgefield County Civic League, oversees the county archives department on a part-time basis. She is considered a "contractor", as the County pays the Civic League for her services. Tonya works in Archives 900-12pm, Monday – Friday.

The majority of these records are land records (prior to 1913), Court records, and Probate records, etc. In reality, the archive is the curator of the Edgefield County Clerk of Court and Register of Deeds older records.

My proposal is to combine the Edgefield County Archives as a sub-department of the Clerk of Court, as is Family Court, General Sessions, Common Pleas, and Register of Deeds. The Archives budget would be incorporated into the Clerk of Court budget. Tonya Guy would become a part-time employee of the Edgefield County Clerk of Court, with no extra benefits, other than salary. This would allow the Clerk of Court to use funds for Archives, and would open grant opportunities for the preservation of Land and Court records.

At the present time, when Tonya is out, or after the morning hours, an employee with the County Admin building has to assist citizens in Archives. This proposal would be able to free up that Admin employee and I would send over a Clerk, or myself, from Register of Deeds to assist, which would be more familiar with records research.

I would ask Mr. LeDuc and County Council to consider this proposal, as it would benefit the citizens of Edgefield County.

Sincerely,

Charles Reel, Edgefield County Clerk of Court / Register of Deeds