The Process of Preservation – The Edenfield Materials
April 26, 2016

The Mission: Repair a collection of badly damaged leather bound books

The Team:
- Special Collections Librarian Sharon Bradley
- Leather conservator Lea Purvis
- Special Collections student work Caroline Corder
- Circulation student worker Sumar Deen

The Process:
- Clean
  - Using a gentle dishwashing liquid, Dawn specifically, each item is cleaned by hand and debris brushed off
- Oil
  - Each item is painted with a special leather conditioner
- Consolidate
  - Using Cellugel (hydroxypropylcellulose and isopropanol) to seal-in the oil and provide a smoother finish
  - Also to deal with red rot, a powdery residue created when vegetable-tanned leather degrades
- Patch
  - Using PVA (polyvinyl acetate) adhesive and tissue paper, repairs are made to the cover
  - Repairs are made to the inside of the book as well
- Paint
  - Using acrylic paints and matching the color of the cover, the patches are painted to blend
- Consolidate again
  - The final step to protect the painted patches