MARYLAND HALL OF RECORDS
Annapolis, Maryland

BULLETIN NO. 16

INDEX HOLDINGS, July, 1971

Most of the volume and card indexes listed below are available in the Index Room, which adjoins the Research Room at the Hall of Records. Others, including all microfilm, may be obtained from the attendants. The list in every case indicates whether the index is found on cards, in volumes, or on microfilm. The inclusive dates given for the indexes are not necessarily the dates of the records held at the Hall of Records. The dates of the records are noted in the right-hand column. New custodial indexes are being added from time to time. There are also other indexes available, especially to vital statistics, which have been prepared by the Daughters of the American Revolution and other patriotic groups.

I. PROBATE RECORDS

The indexes to probate records are divided into two categories: central agency records and county records, because two sets of probate records, theoretically identical, have been preserved for the Colonial period. The chief probate officer of the Province was located in the capital; for some time in the earliest period, the Secretary of the Province served in this capacity, later it was the Commissary General. Papers were filed in the county with the Deputy Commissary for that county. He forwarded them to the capital where they were recorded among the records of a central agency, known as the Prerogative Court.

It is assumed that the Deputy Commissary kept some sort of docket of instruments of the county, but no record as such has been found. The first Maryland State Constitution and the General Assembly of 1777 provided for a Register of Wills and an Orphan's Court for each county and abolished the Prerogative Court. Probate business --- and recording --- became thereafter, a purely county function, and it has remained so until this day. After the Revolution, the General Assembly ordered the original documents of the Prerogative Court to be sent to the county of origin and there to be recorded by the Register of Wills. This accounts for most of the second set of probate records for the Colonial Period.

A. INDEXES TO CENTRAL AGENCY PROBATE RECORDS

There were central agency Probate Records for all the counties of Maryland created before 1777: Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Calvert, Caroline, Cecil, Charles, Dorchester, Frederick, Harford, Kent, Prince George's, Queen Anne's, St. Mary's, Somerset, Talbot and Worcester. The other seven counties and Baltimore City were formed later from one or more of these counties; the searcher is cautioned to seek needed records in the files of the parent county. All of the index cards to the records of the central agency are filed together, except those for Testamentary Proceedings. The names on the cards are those of decedents, except for Accounts, where there are also cards for executors and administrators. The index to the proceedings of the Prerogative Court is called the Index to Testamentary Proceedings, and it contains every name found in the record.
PROBATE RECORDS OF THE PREROGATIVE COURT


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Wills (Recorded)</th>
<th>Date of Index</th>
<th>Form of Index</th>
<th>Date of Record</th>
</tr>
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<tr>
<td>(Original)</td>
<td>1635-1777</td>
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<tr>
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<td>1666-1777</td>
<td>cards, volume</td>
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<tr>
<td>Inventories and Accounts (in Liber Z)</td>
<td>1638-1642</td>
<td>cards</td>
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<tr>
<td>(in Testamentary Proceedings)</td>
<td>1657-1674</td>
<td>cards</td>
<td>Same</td>
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<tr>
<td>Inventories and Accounts</td>
<td>1674-1718</td>
<td>cards, volume</td>
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<tr>
<td>Inventories</td>
<td>1718-1777</td>
<td>cards, volume</td>
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<tr>
<td>Accounts</td>
<td>1718-1777</td>
<td>cards, volume</td>
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<tr>
<td>Balance Books</td>
<td>1751-1777</td>
<td>cards, volume</td>
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<tr>
<td>Testamentary Papers</td>
<td>1695-1777</td>
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<td>as</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Testamentary Proceedings</td>
<td>1657-1777</td>
<td>cards, volume</td>
<td>as</td>
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</table>

B. INDEXES TO COUNTY PROBATE RECORDS

The Hall of Records has probate material for most counties to 1850, and for some counties to 1960 or later. These records are either the originals or microfilm copies. Volume indexes to some of these records have been brought from the counties. For part of this material, the Hall of Records has microfilm copies of volume indexes still in the counties. In those cases where a large group of records has been lost, a notation to that effect has been made opposite the name of the county. Probate records for a county earlier than the date of its establishment as a county should be sought in the records of the county or counties from which it was created.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County</th>
<th>Date of Index</th>
<th>Form of Index</th>
<th>Date of Record</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ALLEGANY: Erected in 1789 from part of Washington County.</td>
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<td>Inventories (Recorded)</td>
<td>1791-1964</td>
<td>film</td>
<td>1791-1962</td>
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<tr>
<td>Accounts (Recorded)</td>
<td>1792-1964</td>
<td>film</td>
<td>1792-1962</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Orphans' Court Proceedings (Recorded)</td>
<td>1791-1937</td>
<td>film</td>
<td>1791-1963</td>
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</table>

ANNE ARUNDEL: Erected in 1650. Probate records prior to 1777 were not kept separately from those of the Prerogative Court and must be searched for there. As the records of the Prerogative Court remained in Annapolis, the Anne Arundel records were not transcribed by that county at the time of the abolition of the Prerogative Court.

| Wills (Recorded) | 1777-1893 | volume | 1777-1967 |
|                 | 1777-1820 | cards  |           |
|                 | 1777-1960 | film   |           |
| (Original)      | 1777-1820 | cards  | 1777-1881 |
| Inventories (Recorded) | 1777-1893 | volume, film | 1777-1967 |
| Accounts (Recorded) | 1777-1821 | cards  | 1777-1967 |
|                 | 1780-1820 | cards  |           |
| Guardian Accounts (Recorded) | 1791-1893 | volume, film | 1791-1871 |
| Testamentary Papers (Original) | 1777-1820 | cards  | 1777-1881 |
| General Index to Estates | 1875-1960 | film |           |

* Hume Indexes available
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<td>volume, film</td>
<td>1679-1851</td>
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<td>1680-1964</td>
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<td>1805-1859</td>
<td>volume, film</td>
<td>1816-1857</td>
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<td>Date of Record</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>CARROLL COUNTY:</strong> Erected in 1837 from parts of Baltimore and Frederick Counties.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wills (Recorded)</td>
<td>1837-1965</td>
<td>film</td>
<td>1837-1961</td>
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<tr>
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<td>film</td>
<td>1837-1853</td>
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<td>Guardian Accounts (Recorded)</td>
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<td>film</td>
<td>1837-1852</td>
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<td>Guardian Bonds (Recorded)</td>
<td>*1837-1865</td>
<td>film</td>
<td>1837-1865</td>
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<tr>
<td><em>one volume each, with index.</em></td>
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<td>The following are not indexed separately, but may be found by reference to the &quot;Estate Docket, 1909-1962&quot; film.</td>
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<td>Inventories (Recorded)</td>
<td>1909-1962</td>
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<tr>
<td>Accounts (Recorded)</td>
<td>1909-1962</td>
<td>film</td>
<td>1837-1963</td>
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</table>

| **CECIL COUNTY:** Erected in 1674 from parts of Baltimore and Kent Counties. |                 |               |                |
| Wills (Recorded)          | 1675-1953       | volume        | 1675-1964      |
|                           | 1675-1950       | film          |                |
| Inventories (Recorded)    | 1675-1965       | film          | 1675-1965      |
| (Original)                | 1675-1790       | cards         | 1675-1796      |
| Accounts (Administration and Guardian Accounts, Distributions and Releases) (Recorded) | 1677-1965 | volume, film | 1677-1965      |
| (Original)                | 1678-1791       | cards         | 1678-1791      |
| Bonds (Recorded)          | 1674-1953       | volume        | 1674-1867      |

| **CHARLES COUNTY:** Erected in 1658. |                 |               |                |
| Wills (Recorded)           | 1665-1825       | cards         | 1665-1963      |
|                           | 1665-1951       | film          |                |
| Inventories (Recorded)    | 1673-1824       | cards         | 1673-1962      |
|                           | 1908-1955       | film (see "Estate Docket, 1908-1955") |                |
| Accounts (Recorded)       | 1673-1824       | cards         | 1673-1959      |
|                           | 1908-1955       | film (see "Estate Docket, 1908-1955") |                |
| Guardian Bonds (Recorded) | 1777-1791       | cards         | 1778-1825      |
| Guardian Accounts (Recorded) | 1788-1823    | cards         | 1788-1823      |
| Guardian Docket           | 1788-1824       | cards         | 1788-1824      |
| Testamentary Proceedings (Recorded) | 1716-1718,      | cards         | 1716-1827      |
|                           | 1760-1766,      |               |                |
|                           | 1777-1791       |               |                |

| **DORCHESTER COUNTY:** Erected in 1699 from parts of Somerset and Talbot Counties. Probate records prior to 1852 were destroyed in a courthouse fire of 1851. Some wills of an earlier date were re-recorded after 1852. |                 |               |                |
| Wills (Recorded)          | 1852-1955       | film          | 1852-1961      |
| Inventories (Recorded)    | 1852-1949       | film          | 1851-1964      |
| Accounts (Recorded)       | 1852-1949       | film          | 1852-           |

<p>| <strong>FREDERICK COUNTY:</strong> Erected in 1748 from Prince George's County. |                 |               |                |
| Wills (Recorded)          | 1748-1930       | volume        | 1744-1963      |
|                           | 1748-1946       | film          |                |
| (Original)                | 1748-1789       | cards         | 1748-1885      |
| Inventories (Original)    | 1748-1788       | cards         | 1749-1875      |
| Accounts (Recorded)       | 1750-1816,      | film          | 1750-1963      |
|                           | 1750-1823       | cards         |                |
|                           | 1815-1952       | (See &quot;Estate Docket, 1815-1935&quot; vol. or &quot;Estate Docket, 1815-1952&quot; film) |                |
| Orphans' Court Proceedings (Recorded) | 1815-1849 | film          | 1777-1963      |
|                           | 1815-1852       | volume        |                |</p>
<table>
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<td>The materials listed below are not separately indexed, but may be found by using the &quot;Estate Docket, 1815-1935&quot; volume and &quot;Estate Docket, 1815-1952&quot; film.</td>
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<td>Inventories (Recorded)</td>
<td>1815-1952</td>
<td>film, volume</td>
<td>1749-1963</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bonds (Recorded)</td>
<td>1815-1952</td>
<td>film, volume</td>
<td>1799-1853</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sales (Recorded)</td>
<td>1815-1952</td>
<td>film, volume</td>
<td>1811-1851</td>
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<td>GARRETT COUNTY: Erected in 1872 from part of Allegany County.</td>
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<tr>
<td>*Wills (Recorded)</td>
<td>1872-1963</td>
<td>film</td>
<td>1872-1958</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Estate Dockets</td>
<td>1872-1963</td>
<td>film</td>
<td>1835-1968</td>
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<td>Inventories (Recorded)</td>
<td>1935-1963</td>
<td>film</td>
<td>1873-1962</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accounts (Recorded)</td>
<td>1935-1963</td>
<td>film</td>
<td>1873-1963</td>
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<td>HARCOURT COUNTY: Erected in 1773 from part of Baltimore County.</td>
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<td>*Wills (Recorded)</td>
<td>1774-1965</td>
<td>volume, film</td>
<td>1777-1967</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accounts (Recorded)</td>
<td>1835-1868</td>
<td>film (key only)</td>
<td>1801-1966</td>
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<td>HOWARD COUNTY: Erected in 1851 from part of Anne Arundel County. It became Howard District of Anne Arundel County in 1840 and maintained separate records from that date.</td>
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<td>*Wills (Recorded)</td>
<td>1840-1964</td>
<td>film</td>
<td>1840-1966</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bonds (Recorded)</td>
<td>*1840-1870</td>
<td>film</td>
<td>1840-1870</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guardian Bonds (Recorded)</td>
<td>*1840-1942</td>
<td>film</td>
<td>1840-1942</td>
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<tr>
<td>Guardian Accounts (Recorded)</td>
<td>*1844-1858</td>
<td>film</td>
<td>1844-1858</td>
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<td>The following are not separately indexed, but may be found by using the &quot;Estate Docket, 1870-1957&quot; film.</td>
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<td>Inventories (Recorded)</td>
<td>1870-1957</td>
<td>film</td>
<td>1840-1965</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accounts (Recorded)</td>
<td>1870-1957</td>
<td>film</td>
<td>1840-1965</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accounts of Sales (Recorded)</td>
<td>1870-1957</td>
<td>film</td>
<td>none</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bonds (Recorded)</td>
<td>1870-1957</td>
<td>film</td>
<td>1840-1970</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Orphans' Court Proceedings (Recorded)</td>
<td>1870-1957</td>
<td>film</td>
<td>1840-1967</td>
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<td>KENT COUNTY: Erected in 1642.</td>
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<tr>
<td>* Wills (Recorded)</td>
<td>1674-1965</td>
<td>film</td>
<td>1674-1962</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1669-1939</td>
<td>volume</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>(Original)</td>
<td>1676-1801</td>
<td>cards</td>
<td>1669-1801</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inventories (Original)</td>
<td>1668-1790</td>
<td>cards</td>
<td>1668-1790</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accounts (Original)</td>
<td>1673-1777</td>
<td>cards</td>
<td>1673-1777</td>
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<td>Bonds (Original)</td>
<td>1664-1799</td>
<td>cards</td>
<td>1664-1799</td>
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<td>The material listed below is not indexed separately, but is entered in the &quot;Administration Docket, 1644-1945&quot; volume and &quot;Administration Docket, 1677-1965&quot; film.</td>
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<td>Inventories (Recorded)</td>
<td>1644-1965</td>
<td>film, volume</td>
<td>1668-1964</td>
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<td>Bonds (Recorded)</td>
<td>1644-1965</td>
<td>film, volume</td>
<td>1664-1850</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accounts (Recorded)</td>
<td>1644-1965</td>
<td>film, volume</td>
<td>1709-1964</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MONTGOMERY COUNTY: Erected in 1776 from part of Frederick County.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wills (Recorded)</td>
<td>1777-1942</td>
<td>volume</td>
<td>1777-1967</td>
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*Hume Indexes Available
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<th>County</th>
<th>Date of Index</th>
<th>Form of Index</th>
<th>Date of Record</th>
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<tr>
<td>MONTGOMERY COUNTY: (continued)</td>
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<tr>
<td>NOTE: All other probate records are found in the same series as wills through 1858; however, only the wills are indexed separately; the other instruments are indexed in self-contained indexes in each volume. This series is titled &quot;Montgomery County Record Book, 1777-1858.&quot; In 1858, probate records were recorded in separate series.</td>
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<td>The material listed below is not indexed separately, but may be found by using &quot;Orphans' Court Dockets, 1798-1931&quot; films.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Inventories (Recorded)</td>
<td>1798-1931</td>
<td>film</td>
<td>1777-1858, 1956-1967</td>
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<tr>
<td>Accounts (Recorded)</td>
<td>1798-1931</td>
<td>film</td>
<td>1777-1858, 1956-1967</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Orphans' Court Proceedings (Recorded)</td>
<td>1798-1931</td>
<td>film</td>
<td>1779-1954</td>
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<td>PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY: Erected in 1695 from parts of Calvert and Charles Counties.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wills (Recorded)</td>
<td>1698-1833</td>
<td>volume</td>
<td>1698-1966</td>
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<tr>
<td>(Original)</td>
<td>1697-1963</td>
<td>film</td>
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<tr>
<td>Inventories (Recorded)</td>
<td>1697-1789</td>
<td>cards</td>
<td>1697-1789</td>
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<tr>
<td>(Original)</td>
<td>1696-1966</td>
<td>film</td>
<td>1696-1966</td>
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<tr>
<td>Accounts (Recorded)</td>
<td>1696-1973</td>
<td>cards</td>
<td>1696-1973</td>
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<tr>
<td>(Original)</td>
<td>1696-1724</td>
<td>film</td>
<td>1696-1967</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bonds (Original)</td>
<td>1723-1724</td>
<td>cards</td>
<td>1723-1724</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administration Docket (Recorded)</td>
<td>1735-1740</td>
<td>cards</td>
<td>1735-1740</td>
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<td>1782-1879</td>
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<td>1696-1789</td>
<td>cards</td>
<td>1696-1879</td>
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<td></td>
<td>1810-1963</td>
<td>film</td>
<td>1858-1961</td>
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<tr>
<td>QUEEN ANNE'S COUNTY: Erected in 1706 from parts of Dorchester, Kent and Talbot Counties.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wills (Recorded)</td>
<td>1706-1965</td>
<td>film</td>
<td>1706-1964</td>
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<tr>
<td>(Original 1667-1705 from Dorchester Co.)</td>
<td>1667-1788</td>
<td>cards</td>
<td>1667-1789</td>
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<tr>
<td>Inventories (Recorded)</td>
<td>1739-1918</td>
<td>volume</td>
<td>1739-1955; 1960-1964</td>
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<tr>
<td>Accounts (Recorded)</td>
<td>1741-1918</td>
<td>volume</td>
<td>1741-1967</td>
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<tr>
<td>Administrations (Recorded)</td>
<td>1823-1880</td>
<td>volume</td>
<td>1774-1857</td>
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<tr>
<td>Administration Papers (Original)</td>
<td>1707-1979</td>
<td>cards</td>
<td>1707-1979</td>
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<tr>
<td>Guardian Bonds and Accounts (Recorded)</td>
<td>1823-1880</td>
<td>volume</td>
<td>1778-1924</td>
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<tr>
<td>Guardian Accounts (Recorded)</td>
<td>1895-1914</td>
<td>volume</td>
<td>1784-1927</td>
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<tr>
<td>Register of Administrators (Recorded)</td>
<td>1794-1916</td>
<td>volume</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Sales (Recorded)</td>
<td>1822-1916</td>
<td>volume</td>
<td>1823-1941; 1958-1967</td>
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<tr>
<td>Valuations (Recorded)</td>
<td>1779-1900</td>
<td>volume</td>
<td>1778-1870</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Releases (Recorded)</td>
<td>1865, 1888-1917</td>
<td>volume</td>
<td>1833-1873</td>
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<tr>
<td>ST. MARY'S COUNTY: Erected in 1637.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wills (Recorded)</td>
<td>1658-1900</td>
<td>*volume</td>
<td>1658-1962</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1658-1947</td>
<td>film</td>
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<tr>
<td>*also printed index in St. Mary's Chronicle and in American Index Library, Index to Wills, edited by Joan Hume, Magna Carta Book Co., Baltimore, 1970.</td>
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The following are not separately indexed, but may be found by using the "Administration Reference Docket, 1808-1894, 1892-1937" film, and "Estate Dockets, 1937-1958" film.

<p>| Inventories (Recorded)             | 1808-1958     | film          | 1795-1959      |
| Accounts (Recorded)                | 1808-1958     | film          | 1674-1720, 1798-1959 |
| Bonds (Recorded)                   | 1808-1958     | film          | 1779-1852      |</p>
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<th>County</th>
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<th>Form of Index</th>
<th>Date of Record</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SOMERSET COUNTY: Erected in 1666.</td>
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<td>Wills (Recorded)*</td>
<td>1666-1955</td>
<td>film</td>
<td>1666-1962</td>
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<tr>
<td>(Original)</td>
<td>1666-1788</td>
<td>cards</td>
<td>1666-1788</td>
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<tr>
<td>Accounts (Original) (Recorded)</td>
<td>1751-1790</td>
<td>cards</td>
<td>1751-1850</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1685-1804</td>
<td>volume</td>
<td>1685-1796, 1804-1960</td>
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<td>1658-1858</td>
<td>film</td>
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<td>1855-1964</td>
<td>film (see &quot;Key to Administration 1855-1922&quot; film and &quot;Administration Docket, 1908-1964&quot; film.)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Inventories, Sales and Petitions</td>
<td>1855-1964</td>
<td>film</td>
<td>1678-1730, 1785-1962</td>
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<td>Bonds (Recorded)</td>
<td>1855-1964</td>
<td>film</td>
<td>1777-1850</td>
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<td>TALBOT COUNTY: Erected in 1662.</td>
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<td>Wills (Recorded)</td>
<td>1665-1953</td>
<td>film</td>
<td>1665-1963</td>
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<td></td>
<td>1668-1716</td>
<td>cards</td>
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<td>1724-1746</td>
<td>cards</td>
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<td></td>
<td>1777-1794</td>
<td>cards</td>
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<tr>
<td>Inventories (Recorded)</td>
<td>1668-1789</td>
<td>cards</td>
<td>1665-1789</td>
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<td>1674-1953</td>
<td>film</td>
<td>1674-1964</td>
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<td>Guardian Accounts (Recorded)</td>
<td>1777-1863</td>
<td>volume (key only)</td>
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<td>1864-1949</td>
<td>film (key only)</td>
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<td>Guardian Bonds (Recorded)</td>
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<td>volume (key only) 1790-1852</td>
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<td>Distributions (Recorded)</td>
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<td>volume (key only) 1790-1852</td>
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<td>Releases (Recorded)</td>
<td>1788-1953</td>
<td>film</td>
<td>1788-1897</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*one volume, with index</td>
<td>1788-1953</td>
<td>film</td>
<td>1858-1960</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WASHINGTON COUNTY: Erected in 1776 from part of Frederick County. Records prior to 1777 were transcribed from Frederick County Records.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wills (Recorded)</td>
<td>1748-1854</td>
<td>cards</td>
<td>1749-1961</td>
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<td></td>
<td>1777-1942</td>
<td>film (see &quot;Deceased Estates Index 1777-1924&quot; film and &quot;Estate Dockets, 1914-1942&quot; film)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Balance Books (Recorded)</td>
<td>1778-1805</td>
<td>cards</td>
<td>1778-1805</td>
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<tr>
<td>Guardian and Wards (Recorded)</td>
<td>1785-1867</td>
<td>volume</td>
<td>1785-1867</td>
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<td>The following are not separately indexed but may be found by consulting the &quot;Deceased Estates Index, 1777-1924&quot; film and &quot;Estate Docket, 1914-1942&quot; film. An index to the Wills is included in this Docket.</td>
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<td>1777-1942</td>
<td>film</td>
<td>1777-1964</td>
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<tr>
<td>Accounts (Recorded)</td>
<td>1777-1942</td>
<td>film</td>
<td>1778-1963</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bonds (Recorded)</td>
<td>1777-1942</td>
<td>film</td>
<td>1799-1856</td>
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<td>WICOMICO COUNTY: Erected in 1867 from parts of Somerset and Worcester Counties.</td>
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<tr>
<td>The following are not separately indexed, but may be found by consulting the &quot;Index to Executors and Administrators, 1869-1957&quot; film and &quot;Administration Docket, 1869-1961&quot; film.</td>
<td></td>
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<td>Wills (Recorded)</td>
<td>1869-1961</td>
<td>film</td>
<td>1867-1965</td>
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<td>1869-1961</td>
<td>film</td>
<td>1867-1964</td>
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<td>Accounts (Recorded)</td>
<td>1869-1961</td>
<td>film</td>
<td>1868-1963</td>
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<tr>
<td>County</td>
<td>Date of Index</td>
<td>Form of Index</td>
<td>Date of Record</td>
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<tr>
<td>---------------------</td>
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<td>WORCESTER COUNTY:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Erected in 1742 from part of Somerset County. Records from 1666-1742 were transcribed from Somerset County records.</td>
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<td>Wills (Recorded)</td>
<td>1742-1790</td>
<td>cards</td>
<td>1665-1960</td>
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<td></td>
<td>1742-1957</td>
<td>film</td>
<td>(See &quot;Estate Docket, 1742-1957&quot; film)</td>
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<td>The following materials are not separately indexed, but may be found by consulting the &quot;Estate Dockets, 1742-1957&quot; film.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Inventories (Recorded)</td>
<td>1742-1957</td>
<td>film</td>
<td>1688-1790, 1804-1962</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accounts (Recorded)</td>
<td>1742-1957</td>
<td>film</td>
<td>1687-1719, 1792-1963</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bonds (Recorded)</td>
<td>1742-1957</td>
<td>film</td>
<td>1667-1793, 1807-1850</td>
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II. LAND RECORDS (formerly in the Land Office)

1. The following are records of the former Land Office of Maryland supplementing the county materials.

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<tr>
<th>DATE OF INDEX</th>
<th>FORM OF INDEX</th>
<th>DATE OF RECORD</th>
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<tr>
<td>Provincial Court (After 1788, General Court)</td>
<td>1658-1815</td>
<td>volume</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deeds</td>
<td>1658-1815</td>
<td>volume</td>
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<tr>
<td>Conveyances by Tract Names</td>
<td>1658-1815</td>
<td>volume</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chancery Records</td>
<td>1668-1806, 1817-1851</td>
<td>cards (Vol. 65 1668-1852 to 104 not indexed)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chancery Papers</td>
<td>c.1785-1851</td>
<td>cards</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tract Names in Chancery Records and Papers</td>
<td>c.1790-1798</td>
<td>cards</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>c.1785-1851</td>
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2. The following items are records having to do with Land Grants.

<table>
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<th>DATE OF INDEX</th>
<th>FORM OF INDEX</th>
<th>DATE OF RECORD</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Early Settlers Index</td>
<td>1633-1680</td>
<td>volume, also printed (all immigrants names, free and transported, in Patent records)*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patents</td>
<td>1634 to date</td>
<td>cards (tract names)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Warrants and Assignments</td>
<td>1634-1842</td>
<td>volume</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Certificates</td>
<td>1705 to date</td>
<td>volume</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rent Rolls</td>
<td>1639-1775, 1782-1790</td>
<td>cards</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Debt Books</td>
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* The printed volume by the same name also includes the first three volumes of patents (edited by Gust Skördas, Genealogical Publishing Co., Baltimore, 1968)
The following indexes are to the land records recorded by the Clerks of the Courts which contain, for the most part, records of transactions in land between individuals. Except for Baltimore City, the land records are present either in original or in photographic copies at the Hall of Records through 1945, after which they may be found in the Record Center, Room 106, State Office Building, Annapolis.

### B. COUNTY

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<tr>
<th>Date of Index</th>
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<td>1659-1800</td>
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III. VITAL STATISTICS

In addition to indexes listed below, the Hall of Records possesses many church records, only a small number of which are indexed.

A. MARRIAGE RECORDS

Statewide marriage records are kept by the State Department of Health, Division of Statistical Research and Records, 301 West Preston Street, Baltimore, Maryland 21201. These records begin in 1914. The Hall of Records has a Russell Soundex System index for marriage records 1914-1930. The records for this period are in the Hall of Records, Record Center, 301 West Preston Street, Baltimore, Md. 21201. The records for 1930-1950, unindexed anywhere, are also in the Record Center and the records and index from 1950 to date are in the State Department of Health.

Divorce records are also kept by the Department of Health and are indexed from 1950 to date. They are also found in the Equity records of the county in which the divorce was granted.

1. County Marriage License Records

The card indexes mentioned below are filed together, except for Baltimore County, which is a separate index.

ALLEGANY COUNTY

General Index to Marriage Records, 1886-1895, microfilm (CR 8652), Campbell Index - females

General Index to Marriage Records, 1895-1900, microfilm (CR 8652), Cott Index - females

Marriage Licenses, 1791-1865, microfilm (CR 8652), entries arranged in chronological order.

Marriage Records, 1865-1900, microfilm (CR 8652-8653), Cott - males

Marriage Records, 1900-1914, microfilm (CR 6885-6886), Cott - males and females

ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY

General Index to Marriage Licenses, 1777-1886, cards

Marriage Licenses, 1777-1886, original, entries arranged in chronological order

Marriage Records, 1865-1886, original, Cott - males

Marriage Records, 1886-1904, original, males and females indexed at beginning of book

Marriage Records, 1905-1933, microfilm (CR 10,019), males and females indexed at beginning of book
BALTIMORE CITY

General Index to Marriage Licenses, 1777-1851, cards

General Index to Marriage Licenses, 1851-1885, microfilm (CR1663-1684), males only

Marriage Licenses, 1777-1851, original, entries arranged in chronological order

Marriage Licenses, 1851-1865, microfilm (CR10,277), Cott-males, partial female index (H-Z) in the back of book

Marriage Records, 1865-1914, microfilm (CR10,278-10,292), Cott-males, female index in the back of book

Marriage by Banns, 1890-1941, microfilm (CR10,293-10,294), Cott-males, female index in the back of book

BALTIMORE COUNTY

General Index to Marriage Licenses, 1777-1851, cards

General Index to Marriage Records, 1851-1886; microfilm (CR11,303)

Marriage Licenses, 1777-1851, original, entries arranged in chronological order

Marriage Records, 1865-1885, microfilm (CR11,303), Cott-males and females

Marriage Records, 1886-1922, microfilm (CR11,304-11,305), Cott-males

Marriage Records, 1922-1945, microfilm (CR11,305-11,319), entries arranged in chronological order.

CALVERT COUNTY

Marriage Licenses, 1882-1886, microfilm (CR7467), Cott-males

Marriage Licenses, 1886-1944, microfilm (CR7467), Campbell-males and females

CAROLINE COUNTY

General Index to Marriage Licenses, 1774-1886, cards

Marriage Licenses, 1774-1792, original, entries arranged in chronological order recorded in back of Land Commissions GF #A with Clerks Accounts

Marriage Licenses, 1797-1886, original, entries arranged in chronological order

Marriage Licenses, 1774-1865, microfilm (WK 549), Campbell-males and females

Marriage Records, 1886-1928, microfilm (CR9473), Campbell-males and females

CARROLL COUNTY

General Index to Marriage Licenses, 1837-1867, microfilm (CR3830), typewritten. Prepared by D.A.R.

Marriage Licenses, 1837-1867, microfilm (CR3830), typewritten transcript prepared by D.A.R.
CARROLL COUNTY (cont.)

Marriage Licenses, 1837-1886, microfilm (CR 3830 & 4365), entries arranged in chronological order

Marriage Records, 1865-1886, microfilm (CR 4365), Cott-males

Marriage Records, 1886-1895, microfilm (CR 8924), Cott-males and females

Marriage Records, 1895-1915, microfilm (CR 8925-8930), males and females indexed at beginning of book

CECIL COUNTY

General Index to Marriage Licenses, 1777-1840, volume prepared by the D.A.R. Library

General Index to Marriage Licenses, 1840-1863, microfilm (CR 1809), typewritten, prepared by the D.A.R., males index followed by female index

Marriage Licenses, 1777-1886, original, entries arranged in chronological order

Marriage Records, 1886-1915, microfilm (CR 8605), Cott-males

CHARLES COUNTY

General Index to Marriage Records, 1655-1694, cards

Marriage Records, 1655-1694, original, recorded in Land and Court Records

Marriage Records, 1886-1921, microfilm (CR 7493), Cott-males

DORCHESTER COUNTY

General Index to Marriage Licenses, 1780-1886, cards

Marriage Licenses, 1780-1841, 1851-1886, original, entries arranged in chronological order

Marriage Records, 1886-1941, microfilm (CR 7032), Campbell-males

FREDERICK COUNTY

General Index to Marriage Licenses, 1778-1798, cards

General Index to Marriage Licenses, 1778-1814, original, incomplete (A-L) Campbell-males

General Index to Marriage Licenses, 1778-1865, original, incomplete (H[1845][-V]) Cott-males
FREDERICK COUNTY (cont.)

General Index to Marriage Licenses, 1778-1865, original, incomplete (B[1778]-H[1819]), Cott-females

General Index to Marriage Licenses, 1778-1865, original, incomplete (H[1819]-S[1803]), Cott-females

Marriage Licenses, 1778-1871, original, entries arranged in chronological order

Marriage Licenses, 1871-1886, original, entries arranged in chronological order, males and females indexed in back of book

Marriage Records, 1865-1882, original, Cott-males

Marriage Records, 1882-1886, original, Cott-males, female index at beginning of book

Marriage Records, 1886-1888, original, entries arranged in chronological order

Marriage Records, 1888-1915, microfilm (CR 10,010-10,015), males and females indexed at beginning of book

GARRETT COUNTY

Marriage Records, 1872-1886, microfilm (CR 6943), entries arranged in chronological order, male index at beginning of book, female index (B-Z) in back of book

Marriage Records, 1886-1915, microfilm (CR 6943-6945), Campbell-males and females

HARFORD COUNTY

Marriage Licenses, 1779-1886, microfilm (WK 826.[2]), entries arranged in chronological order

HOWARD COUNTY

Marriage Licenses, 1840-1886, original, entries arranged in chronological order.

Marriage Records, 1886-1891, 1896-1900, original, entries arranged in chronological order

Marriage Records, 1865-1886, microfilm (CR 8441), Cott-males

Marriage Records, 1886-1916, microfilm (CR 8441-8442), Cott-males and females

KENT COUNTY

General Index to Marriage Records, 1654-1696, cards

General Index to Marriage Licenses, 1796-1866, typed volume, Campbell-males and females
KENT COUNTY (cont.)

Marriage Licenses, 1796-1802, 1815-1886, original, entries arranged in chronological order

Marriage Records, 1654-1696, original, recorded in Court and Land Records

Marriage Records, 1865-1888, original, Cott-males

Marriage Records, 1886-1915, microfilm (CR 6952), Campbell-males and females

MONTGOMERY COUNTY

Marriage Licenses, 1798-1839, microfilm (CR 8920), typewritten transcript, entries arranged in chronological order

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY

General Index to Marriage Licenses, 1777-1886, cards

Marriage Licenses, 1777-1886, original, entries arranged in chronological order

Marriage Records, 1865-1867, original, Cott-males

Marriage Records, 1879-1886, original, entries arranged in chronological order

Marriage Records, 1886-1923, microfilm (CR 7537-7538), Campbell-males and females

QUEEN ANNE'S COUNTY

Marriage Licenses, 1817-1858, 1864-1866, /microfilm (CR 4675), entries arranged in chronological order

1869-1871

Marriage Licenses, 1887-1890, original, entries arranged in chronological order

Marriage Records, 1886-1908, microfilm (CR 4675 & 8760), Cott-males

Marriage Records, 1908-1914, microfilm (CR 8760), males indexed at beginning of book, females indexed at back of book

ST. MARY'S COUNTY

Marriage Licenses, 1794-1864, microfilm (CR 7450), entries arranged in chronological order

Marriage Records, 1865-1886, microfilm (CR 7450), Cott-males

Marriage Records, 1886-1949, microfilm (CR 7450-7451), Campbell-males and females

Marriage Records, 1949-1960, microfilm (CR 7451), incomplete (A.A.-K.G.), Campbell-males and females
SOMERSET COUNTY

General Index to Marriage Records, 1650-1720, cards

General Index to Marriage Records, 1866-1937, microfilm (CR 7405-7406), Cott-males and females

General Index to Marriage Records, 1952-1962, microfilm (CR 7406), Cott-males

Marriage Licenses, 1796-1831, microfilm (CR 7401), typewritten, Cott-males

Marriage Licenses, 1831-1871, microfilm (CR 7402), entries arranged in chronological order

Marriage Records, 1650-1720, original, recorded in Court and Land Records

Marriage Records, 1866-1886, microfilm (CR 7401), Cott-males

Marriage Records, 1886-1938, microfilm (CR 7401 & 7403), entries arranged in chronological order

Marriage Records, 1938-1952, microfilm (CR 7403), Cott-males and females

Marriage Records, 1886-1938, original, entries arranged in chronological order

Marriage Records, 1952-1963, microfilm (CR 7403-7405), entries arranged in chronological order

TALBOT COUNTY

General Index to Marriage Licenses, 1794-1810, prepared by the D.A.R. Library, Cott-males

Marriage Licenses, 1794-1799, original, entries arranged in chronological order

Marriage Licenses, 1801-1839, original, entries arranged in chronological order, males indexed at beginning of book

Marriage Licenses, 1840-1867, microfilm (CR 10,016), entries arranged in chronological order, males indexed at beginning of book

Marriage Records, 1865-1885, microfilm (CR 10,016), Cott-males

Marriage Records, 1885-1920, microfilm (CR 10,016-10,017), Campbell-males and females

WASHINGTON COUNTY

General index to Marriage Licenses, 1799-1860, microfilm (WK 915-916), Cott-males and females

General Index to Marriage Records, 1886-1926, microfilm (CR 8687), Cott-males and females
WASHINGTON COUNTY (cont.)

General Index to Marriage Records, 1927-1960, microfilm (CR 8688-8690), Cott-males and females, males and females indexed in separate volumes

Marriage Licenses, 1799-1886, original, entries arranged in chronological order

Marriage Records, 1886-1915, microfilm (CR 8667-8686), entries arranged in chronological order

WICOMICO COUNTY

Marriage Records, 1868-1886, microfilm (CR 9434), Cott-males

Marriage Records, 1886-1916, microfilm (CR 9434-9435), Campbell-males and females

WORCESTER COUNTY

Marriage Licenses, 1795-1890, original, entries arranged in chronological order

Marriage Records, 1886-1900, original, entries arranged in chronological order

Marriage Records, 1866-1886, microfilm (CR 8974), Cott-males

Marriage Records, 1886-1917, microfilm (CR 8974-8975), Campbell-males

2. Statewide Marriage Records

Secretary of State Record 1865-1867 cards

3. Hodges Marriage References 1637-1851 cards

Card references prepared by a genealogist from records at the Hall of Records, the old Land Office and elsewhere. It covers the period 1637-1851, but it is not complete. It seldom gives the exact date of marriage, because it contains many references to records which prove only that a marriage has previously taken place. The Hall of Records can furnish copies only of records in its custody.

B. BIRTHS, DEATHS AND BURIALS FOUND IN LAND AND COURT RECORDS (Dates of Records and indexes listed below are identical.)

Baltimore City has birth and death records for that city only, dating from 1875. For information, write to the Bureau of Vital Statistics, Municipal Bldg., Holliday and Lexington Streets, Baltimore, Maryland 21202. (Search fee - $1.00, payable to the City Treasurer, for each record.)

For births and deaths, statewide, beginning with 1914, the searcher should address the Division of Statistical Research and Records, State Department of Health, 301 West Preston Street, Baltimore, Maryland 21201.
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<tr>
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<td>Births</td>
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<td>Anne Arundel: Vital Records</td>
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<td>Calvert: Vital Records</td>
<td>1898-1923</td>
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<td>Caroline: Vital Records</td>
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<td>Cecil: Vital Records</td>
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<td>1654-1696,</td>
<td>1666-1694</td>
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<td>1702-1706</td>
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IV. MILITARY SERVICE  
(Dates of Records and Indexes listed are identical)

A. COLONIAL WARS

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B. REVOLUTIONARY WAR

1. Revolutionary Records

   (Enlistments, Letter Books, Day Books, Ledgers, etc., from the records of the Auditor General, Intendant, Council of Safety and the United States Agent.)

   Muster Rolls (printed in Vol. 18, Maryland Archives, Maryland Historical Society, Baltimore, 1900. Reprints now available at the Society.)  

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2. Revolutionary Papers

   (Accounts, Army Returns, Pay and Muster Rolls, Discharges, Ships' Manifests, Loyalist Papers, etc.)  

<table>
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3. Soldiers entitled to lands westward of Fort Cumberland  

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4. Oaths of Fidelity to the State of Maryland

   Anne Arundel County
   Baltimore County
   Baltimore County (those who did not take the oath)
   Back River Lower, Back River Upper, Baltimore West, Deptford, Delaware, Gunpowder Upper, Middle River Lower, Middle River Upper, Middlesix, Mine Run, North, Patapsco Upper, Pipe Creek, Soldiers Delight and Westminster Hundreds
   Caroline County
   Calvert County
   Cecil County
   Charles County: Bryantown, West Mamzick, East Benedict, and Port Tobacco Hundreds, and others not recorded by hundreds.
   Dorchester County
   Frederick County
   Harford County
   Montgomery County
   Prince George's County
   Queen Anne's County
   Somerset County
   Talbot County: Bay Hundred and others not recorded by Hundreds.

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5. Census of 1776

   (Taken pursuant to a resolution of the Continental Congress for ascertaining the population of the United Colonies, adopted 26 December, 1775)

   Anne Arundel County: All Hallows and St. James Parishes
   Baltimore County: Deptford Hundred
   Caroline County: Bridge Town Hundred
   Dorchester County: Nantacoake, Straight's, and Transquakin Hundreds
   Frederick County: Elizabeth, Lower Potomack, George Town, Northwest, and Sugarland Hundreds

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5. Census of 1776 (continued)
   Harford County: Broad Creek, Bush River Lower, Deer
       Creek Lower, Harford Lower, Spesutia Lower, and Susquehanna
       Hundreds
   Prince George's County: Prince George's and St. John's Parishes
   Queen Anne's County: Town, Upper (Kent Island), and Wye Hundreds
   Talbot County: Bay, Mill and Tuckahoe Hundreds

6. Census of 1778
   (Census of free white males over 18 years of age, taken under
   the provisions of Chapter 30 of the Acts of 1777, to ascertain
   which persons had failed to take the Oath of Fidelity.)
   Caroline County: Great Choptank, Bridge Town and Tuckahoe Hundreds
   Charles County: Lower Durham Parish, Benedict West (Port Tobacco),
       East (Port Tobacco) Upper (Port Tobacco), Town (Port Tobacco)
       Upper (William and Mary Parish), East (Newport), West (Newport)
       Pomonkey, William and Mary Lower and Bryan Town Hundreds
   Queen Anne's County: Chester, Island, Kent Island, Upper, Kent
       Island Lower, Town, Tuckahoe, Walsey, Worrel, and Wye Hundreds

7. Pensions
   Laws, Pension Roll

8. Assessment of 1783
   "An Act to raise the supplies for the Year Seventeen Hundred and
   Eighty-Three" Chapter 6, Acts of 1782
   Anne Arundel County
   Baltimore County*
   Charles County
   Cecil County
   Dorchester County
   Harford County*
   Kent County
   Montgomery County
   Queen Anne's County
   Talbot County
   Washington County

C. WAR OF 1812-1815

In: Militia Records - Officers; Commissions and
   arms accounts
   Pension Laws, Pension Roll

1794-1824

* Baltimore and Harford Counties have been published in facsimile editions by
Rhestoric Publications, Philadelphia, Pa. 1907
D. CIVIL WAR

Confederate Prisoners who died at Point Lookout, Maryland

USEFUL PRINTED MATERIALS FOR MILITARY SERVICE

REVOLUTIONARY WAR:

Muster Rolls and Other Records of Service of Maryland Troops in the American Revolution 1775-1783. The Archives of Maryland, Vol. 18, Baltimore, 1900. (Indexed)

WAR OF 1812-1815:


WAR BETWEEN THE STATES:


Wilmer, L. Allison, et. al.: History and Roster of the Maryland Volunteers (Union) War of 1861-65... 2 volumes, Baltimore, 1898. (card index)

SPANISH-AMERICAN WAR:

Roster of the Soldiers and Sailors who served in Organizations from Maryland during the Spanish-American War... Baltimore, 1901. (Arranged alphabetically within military units)

WORLD WAR I:

Maryland in the World War 1917-1919. Military and Naval Service Records... 2 volumes, Baltimore, 1933. (Arranged alphabetically)

WORLD WAR II:

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LAND OFFICE
AND
PREROGATIVE COURT RECORDS
OF
COLONIAL MARYLAND

By
ELISABETH HARTSOOK
GUST SKORDAS

State of Maryland
PUBLICATIONS OF
THE HALL OF RECORDS COMMISSION NO. 4
Baltimore
GENEALOGICAL PUBLISHING COMPANY
1968
THE HALL OF RECORDS

The Hall of Records of Maryland was built as a part of the tercentenary celebration of the landing of the Ark and the Dove. It is located in Annapolis on the corner of College Avenue and St. John's Street. It is controlled and supervised by the Hall of Records Commission which was created by Chapter 18, Acts of 1935, and which is composed ex-officio of the Governor, the Comptroller of the Treasury, the Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals, the Presidents of the St. John's College, the Maryland Historical Society, the Board of the Peabody Institute, and the Johns Hopkins University. The present members of the Hall of Records Commission are Governor Herbert R. O'Conor, the Honorable J. Millard Tawes, Jr., Judge Ogle Marbury, Chairman, Mr. Stringfellow Barr, Senator George L. Radcliffe, Dr. J. Hall Pleasants, and Dr. Isaiah Bowman.

Every state, county, city, town, or other public official in Maryland is authorized to deposit in the Hall of Records, any original papers, official books, records, documents, files, newspapers, printed books, or portraits not in use. He is required to deposit all records in his custody created before the date of the adoption of the Federal Constitution by Maryland, April 28, 1788. The Hall of Records will furnish for a small fee photostat, typewritten or microfilm copies of any documents in its custody. All the materials at the Hall of Records are available for use by the public in the Search room of the Hall of Records subject to such regulations for their safekeeping as have been adopted by the Hall of Records Commission. Inquiries received by mail will be answered if the research required is confined to the use of our extensive indexes; however, no family lines will be traced, nor will any record be evaluated for genealogical purposes.
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FOREWORD

As the fourth in its series of publications the Maryland Hall of Records Commission has prepared for students of Maryland history and genealogy this work on colonial land and probate records. Since the county land records and the records of the deputy commissioners general, the county probate officers, are not yet all in Annapolis, it has been thought wise to restrict the scope of these studies to (1) the records which were created by the proprietary and royal land agents and to (2) the archives of the central probate office.

Maryland is fortunate to have preserved such complete land and probate records. Doubtless much credit for this good fortune is due to the fact that the record-making agencies were centralized throughout the colonial period, in St. Mary's City until 1694 and after that in Annapolis. They were ever under the watchful eye of the General Assembly whose proceedings bear witness of the concern felt for those records which protected the property rights of Marylanders. Except for one early incident which accounted for minor losses, these records have escaped the perils of warfare, civil and foreign. They have not been decimated by fire or theft, nor suffered seriously from the other hazards of peace which have caused such grave losses elsewhere. They are all now to be found in the modern fireproof vaults of the Hall of Records building where they receive the best care which a generous State can provide.

All the records considered in these studies are well known to students of Marylandiana. They have been used and cited by specialists for several generations. It is the hope of the authors that this study will widen their usefulness. In the case of the Land records there has never before been a comprehensive list, or catalogue, or finding medium of any kind which might serve to orient the student. It has been fortunate that for the last forty-five years the present Chief Clerk of the Land Office, Mr. Arthur Trader, has been a member of its staff. A generation of students has profited from his interest in, and his knowledge of, these records. Justification for a published list is twofold: the quality of record custodians is certain to vary and students not resident in Annapolis are enabled to prepare themselves in advance for studies here.
Abstracts of the Will records have been published but otherwise none of the probate group has been treated in detail. The several series were accounted for in the Catalogue published by the Hall of Records Commission several years ago, but the usefulness of such a work is, of course, extremely limited.

First drafts of these studies were prepared by the authors several years ago as term papers for the course in Archival Administration offered by American University and the National Archives under the direction of Dr. Ernst Posner. Since that time they have been expanded and thoroughly revised. The authors, Dr. Elisabeth Hartsook, Senior Archival Assistant at the Hall of Records and Gust Skordas, Assistant Archivist, have applied themselves to their difficult and tedious tasks with exceptional perseverance and understanding. Doubtless they will have omitted details or committed minor errors but this is to be expected in pioneering efforts of this kind. That their work is fundamentally sound does not seem subject to doubt.

In addition to the two lists of records the reader will find extremely valuable the historico-legal introductions which precede. A single index for both studies has also been provided.

Morris L. Radoff,
Archivist.

Annapolis,
June 28, 1946.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The authors wish to express their appreciation to Mr. Roger Thomas, Assistant Archivist at the Hall of Records, for reading the proofs of the study and to Miss Martha Suit, Junior Assistant Librarian, for typing the manuscript. Finally they wish to acknowledge their indebtedness to Dr. Morris L. Radoff, the Archivist, who first suggested the subjects, read the manuscripts and throughout the project lent encouragement and guidance.

Elisabeth Hartsook
Gust Skordas
Whatever the idealistic aims of the founders of Maryland, the problem of making the enterprise pay was a most considerable factor that could not be ignored. Lacking the gold of Mexico or the spices of the Indies, the Lords Baltimore had to make use of the land itself as a source of wealth. The proprietary system, under which Maryland was governed, gave ownership of the soil and complete jurisdiction over it to the Lord Proprietor himself, just as in a medieval fief. Land "bought" was never owned; it was held in fief, or more accurately, in common socage, from the Lord Proprietor. The more of his land that the Lord Proprietor could grant or lease to new settlers the more income he would naturally have from it. Hence the constant campaign to induce people to "come out" to Maryland and take up land.

The basis upon which land was granted was laid down in certain proposals published by the Lord Proprietor, called Conditions of Plantation. Under the first Conditions of Plantation, for example, 2000 acres of land were to be granted to every adventurer taking five men into the new province in the year 1633. All along, too, the Lord Proprietor made special grants, with or without conditions, according to his fancy, to friends and favorites. As things got started, grants were reduced—on the basis of new and successive Conditions of Plantation—and in 1683 title to land was divorced from the condition of importation of new settlers and put on a cash basis—known as purchase or caution money. The amount of the caution money was at first set at 200 pounds of tobacco for every hundred acres. The price was steadily raised, however, until at the time of the overthrow of the proprietary government in 1776 it was five pounds sterling per hundred acres.1

Besides caution money payments the Lord Proprietor had three other chief types of land revenue: alienation fines, manor rents and quit rents. An alienation fine was the fee required to be paid to the Lord Proprietor whenever land granted to a tenant was transferred or conveyed to another person, the amount of the fine usually being equivalent to a year's rent. Quit rents and manor rents differ only in that the former represent the yearly rent paid on freeholds or private land whereas the latter refer to the yearly rent paid on tene-

1 Clarence P. Gould, The Land System in Maryland, 1720-1765, Baltimore, 1913, p. 15.
ments of a manor. A manor was a large grant of land of a thousand acres or more belonging to one individual who rented or leased out parcels of it to tenants. There were about 62 such manors granted to private adventurers in Maryland and about half as many were erected by the Lord Proprietor himself. The manor rents referred to in this study naturally refer only to the manors owned by the Proprietor as rents on the others were collected by the individuals to whom they were granted. The preponderant importance of the quit rents as a source of revenue is readily apparent when one compares average annual income for the years on record from all four types of land revenues. Whereas alienation fines yielded from 130 to 200 pounds sterling each year, manor rents about 1,000 pounds, purchase or caution money payments between 1500 and 2500 pounds, quit rents amounted, on an average, to between five to six thousand pounds. Since the quit rents represented the greatest single item of the Lord Proprietor's income from his colony, it is not surprising that the levying and collection of them was ever a serious issue both for the Lord Proprietor and the Marylanders. The former constantly strove to increase the amount, the latter, to prevent such an increase. The rent began, in 1633, as twenty pounds of wheat per hundred acres. In 1642 it was increased to two shillings for every hundred acres and several years later it was raised to four shillings. In 1671 a duty of twelve pence per hoghead on exported tobacco took the place of normal quit rent (the colony's whole economy at this time was based on the growing and exporting of tobacco) and from 1717 to 1733 a similar law provided a two shilling per hoghead duty to cover all quit rent claims. After 1733 until the Revolution quit rents were again collected normally as before 1671, for the most part at four shillings per hundred acres. Although the total income from manor rents was much less than from freehold rents because there were so many more of the latter, the rent rate for both averaged about the same, the one being higher at one time and the other at another.

One other, more indirect, source of land revenue for the Proprietor was the reversion of land to him by escheat. All land, under the socage tenure system was liable to revert to the Proprietor if certain conditions—most commonly lack of heirs, treason and non-payment of rent—warranted it. By regranting such land the Lord Proprietor undoubtedly added considerably to his land revenues, if the numerous escheat warrants found in the land records may be taken as an indication. There was always considerable opposition on the part of the colonists to this practice but it continued down to the Revolution.

Although the Lord Proprietor was the one most specifically concerned it must be remembered that he was not the only one to whom land was a matter of primary importance. The soil was the source of livelihood for the people of colonial Maryland and constituted their chief wealth. The mark of landlessness was an unfavorable one and even though landless persons such as leaseholders and overseers made a better living than the poorer freeholders they were left politically powerless and attached to the interest of an upper class. It has been estimated that in 1755 probably more than half of the free whites of Maryland belonged to families of the landholding class. The great majority of landowners was, of course, made up of the small freeholders, while the great beneficiaries of the land system were those individuals and families whose large holdings gave them power and prestige above the many. This power and prestige was enhanced in the case of many of these individuals by the holding of high offices and the accumulation thereby of considerable additional wealth in the form of fees.

HISTORY OF LAND ADMINISTRATION

In view of the pre-eminence role of land in colonial Maryland it is not surprising that from the beginning the Proprietors took great care of the administration of land affairs and of the keeping of records pertaining thereto.

The earliest evidence of land administration in Maryland comes indirectly through a grant made to Thomas Cornwallis in 1640 mentioning how in a previous grant "for and in Consideration that our Governor and Comissioners of that our Province of Maryland

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6 Charles A. Barker, The Background of the Revolution in Maryland, New Haven, 1940, p. 140.
7 Gould, p. 33.
9 Gould, pp. 28-29.
did by a Deed under their hand and Seal bearing date of St. Mary's 9th May 1634, agree and promise to and with Capt. Henry Fleece... that he should have 4,000 acres of Land.71 The earliest land transactions, then, would seem to have been in the hands of the "Governor and Comissioners." The first official evidence bearing on land administration is the commission, dated April 15, 1637, appointing Leonard Calvert as Lieutenant General or Governor of the province. Among other things Calvert is by this commission empowered "to pass any Grant under our Said Great Seal... All which Grants Soe to be made... and the Said Warrants under our hand and Seal for the passing thereof, Shall be enrolled by our Secretary of our said Province, for the time being and not before... Shall be effectual in Law against us, and Shall bind us and our heirs..."72 This same commission appointed three men as a Council to the Governor, one of the three (John Lewger) being also appointed "Secretary and Keeper of the acts and proceedings of the Governor and Council for the time being, and for the doing (i. e. making out) and recording of all grants of land or of offices within the province," as well for recording generally all matters necessary.73 Before the colony began to expand then, land business, like all other business, was attended to directly by the Governor and Council and Secretary.

In March 1638/9 an act was passed whereby "no Grant Deed lease Conveyance or Estate hereafter to be made by the Lord Proprietarie or his heirs to any person or persons whatsoever... Shall be of any force or validity in law to any intent or purpose whatsoever unfill such grant deed Lease or Conveyance and the Warrant given or to be given under the hand and Seal of the Lord Proprietarie of his heirs for the passing and granting the same shall be enrolled by the Secretary of the Said Province..."74

In 1641 a new development comes in the establishment of the office of Surveyor General. This office transcended that of a mere surveyor and was more like that of the steward of an English manor. During the first period the incumbent was always a member of the council of state, and was not so much expected to make surveys himself as to appoint surveyors and control their work and

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1 Patents, Liber 1, p. 97; John Kitty, The Landholder's Assistant and Land Office Guide, Baltimore, 1808, p. 64.
2 Patents, Liber 1, p. 13.
3 Ibid., p. 15; Kitty, p. 65.
4 Assembly Proceedings, Liber C & W H, p. 34.
5 Assembly Proceedings, Liber C & W H, p. 34.
6 Assembly Proceedings, Liber C & W H, p. 34.
7 Archives of Maryland, V, 94 ff.; Newton D. Mereness, Maryland as a Proprietary Province, New York, 1901, p. 59.
10 Ibid., p. 66.
It is perceived that although land affairs at this period were attended to somewhat confusedly with all other kinds of business in the only office then existing, a framework of the Land Office seems to be already in existence. Kilty is of the opinion that previous to 1680 explicit instructions for the proceedings of the Land Office, and for that purpose only, had not been prescribed—partly because up to that time the government had been generally in the hands of the Proprietor’s near relations and partly because up to that time no office had been set aside especially for land. The only clue to such a previous system would seem to lie in a certain “Book of Instructions”, no longer in existence, but mentioned in the list of books of records turned over to John Llweilen in 1680.15 At any rate, Charles, the third Lord Baltimore, is identified with the separate and formal establishment of a Land Office when, in 1680, he for the first time erected an office by that name and gave the charge of it to John Llweilen with the denomination of Register. As such, Llweilen was authorized to take into his care all the “records transcripts, books, papers and memorandums”, to take the probate of rights for land; to issue and sign warrants, and upon return of certificates to draw up patents.16 The Register, it is seen, now has the powers formerly reserved for the Governor or the Secretary.

Four years after this, Charles, about to make a second visit to England and determined apparently to put land matters on an efficient and dependable basis before leaving, committed the sole management of land affairs to a select council consisting of four members and termed “the land council” or more formally “his Lordships Council for lands specially appointed.” At the same time he made out a set of instructions intended to cover all operations of the land office, and from this time the complete and distinct organization of this agency takes its date.17 The new council was authorized to hear and determine all matters relating to land that were brought before it. Two of its members, the Secretaries of the province, were authorized to issue land warrants; and one of the Secretaries with one of the other members to sign all grants. At this point then, the land business had become thoroughly organized in what was chiefly a private office of the Lord Proprietor, which office held jurisdiction over the keeping of the records, over every-thing pertaining to title to land, and over the collection of the revenue arising thereon.18

As a result of the Protestant Revolution of 1688 in England after which Maryland became a crown colony, the Land Office was closed from 1689 to 1694, but its business was to a large extent taken care of nevertheless by Henry Darnall, the proprietor’s cousin and his agent. In 1695 Darnall had conferred on him, in as far as the Proprietor was able to do so, all the powers formerly vested in the Land Council19 and after Darnall’s death this power continued to be vested in one person, the Agent, Charles Carroll.

The interval from 1689 to 1715 during which Maryland was a crown colony is especially interesting for the history of the Land Office. The question of the private (i.e. the Lord Proprietor) or public nature of this agency developed into a major issue. Under the royal government the Governor and Council, the Secretary and the Assembly aligned themselves against the Lord Proprietor, his agent and solicitor and assumed many of the rights formerly vested in the Land Council, claiming public rather than private right to settlement of judicia! questions relating to title, custody of the record of titles and some control over surveying. About the only rights acknowledged as private and left to the Proprietor were those necessary for securing his legitimate revenue, which from the start the crown had not failed to guarantee him. In effect then, during this period the Land Office was managed by the Royal Governor and Council and more specifically, the Secretary, while the best Lord Baltimore could do was depend on what his agents could achieve in the way of upholding his claims.

None of the subsequent Agents ever brought to their office the power and diligence that Darnall and Carroll had and after the restoration of the Lord Proprietor’s rights in 1715, although this office continued, the chief power came to be centered in that of the Land Office Judges newly created at that time. Philemon Lloyd, in 1715, was the first to assume this title. According to the commission received by the second holder of this office the incumbent was constituted “Judge and Register in and of the land office, with full power to hear, judge, and determine in land affairs... according to Right, Reason and Good Conscience, and the several instructions and orders which he should from time to time receive from

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15 Warrants, Liber 3, first page; see p. 77.
16 Ibid., p. 24.
17 Kilty, p. 109.
18 Mereness, p. 60.
the proprietor relating thereto. Here it is to be observed that the Judge takes over, along with his own title, that of Register. Under the Judges of the Land Office the chief officials were the Surveyor Generals (before the close of the 17th century it had become customary to appoint a Surveyor General for each shore) and the Examiner General. About the only duties of these officers were the appointment of a Deputy Surveyor in each county and the transmission of instructions and warrants to and from these deputies. After 1764 two Judges were appointed for the Land Office and this practice continued until the Revolution.

Such then, was the general organization of land administration in Maryland up to the time of the Revolution. The most striking feature of the development—its constant amplification and diversification—from the small nucleus of the “Governor and Commissioners” to a large office with a number of different departments was to be expected in a new and important agency growing up in a new and important country.

RECORDS IMPLIED IN THE TITLE “COLONIAL LAND OFFICE RECORDS”

Colonial Land Office records are those emanating from the Lord Proprietor’s Land Office after its inception in 1680 and kept previous to that in the custody of the authorized director of land affairs. With the exception of assignments they do not witness transactions between two landholders as conveyances do. They are agreements between an individual and the Lord Proprietor pertaining to initial granting or leasing of land or they are records of rent payments to the Proprietor on his lands. Once an individual received title to land from the Proprietor further transfers (unless the land reverted to the Proprietor through escheat) were no longer recorded in the Land Office, but in either the County Courts or the Provincial Court. Thus a great body of what might at first thought be considered colonial Land Office records—the County and Provincial Court deeds before 1776—does not fall within the scope of this study. Further, colonial Land Office records discussed here refer only to those in the present custody of the Land Office.

Colonial Land Office records are made up of five different series, according to their present arrangement in the Land Office—Patents, Warrants, Proprietary Leases, Rent Rolls and Debt Books. The first two series, the Patents and Warrants, contain not only patents and warrants but also certificates, caveats, proofs of rights, assignments, proclamations of Lord Baltimore, conditions of plantation and all manner of records pertaining to granting of land. These two series actually represent the main body of Land Office records. This is evident from the fact that the various lists of land records made and reported at different times during the colonial period consist of the books of these two series with the Provincial Court land records sometimes included. The reason, of course, that the two series, the Rent Rolls and Debt Books, do not have the stature of the Patents and Warrants series is that they were kept as private account books for collecting rent and do not have anything to do with granting or transferring title of land. Proprietary leases fall somewhere between the first group and the second in significance as land records. They record title of a secondary, temporary sort.

THE CHARTER AND CONDITIONS OF PLANTATION

To begin at the very beginning it is necessary to mention the antecedent of all Maryland land records, the charter granting Maryland to Lord Baltimore. The charter granting the territory comprising Maryland had originally been drawn up by George Lord Baltimore, but he dying before the patent was completed, the grant was made on June 20, 1632 to his son Cecilius. By the terms of the charter the territory was to be held in free and common socage from the king of England with a nominal annual rent of two Indian arrows and one-fifth of all gold and silver found. It was made both

20 Kilty, p. 269.

22 Although these records in the present Land Office constitute a complete, definitive body of colonial Land Office records, scattered additional records are to be found at the Maryland Hall of Records, the Maryland Historical Society, in the Johns Hopkins University Papers and in county records. These consist entirely of papers and records of the more private or secondary sort, pertaining to the proprietor’s revenue such as duplicates of debt books and rent rolls, lists of manor rents, accounts, alienation lists, etc.

alienable and inheritable and the right to grant or lease any of his land to any person to hold the same of him—and not of the king—in fee simple was also given. As to the regulation of military, executive and judicial authority, of all office and title, of the Church and to a large extent, of legislative activity, Lord Baltimore was given almost unrestricted authority, with the crown reserving to itself the right of control in war, trade and commerce. Least but not least, the following provisions were made guaranteeing the rights of the new inhabitants: (1) there should be no ordinance which could take away the right or interest of any person or persons, of, or in member, life, freehold, goods or chattels; (2) all laws and ordinances should be reasonable and, so far as convenient, like the laws and customs of England; (3) the people of Maryland should be entitled to “all the privileges, franchises, and liberties” which other English subjects enjoyed.24

The Conditions of Plantation, or terms under which land was granted to new colonists, should be mentioned next. The first of these date from 1633 before the Ark and the Dove left England. No record of these is extant in Maryland records but secondary sources reveal their existence25 and they are reproduced in the oldest Conditions of Plantation on record in Maryland, dated 1636 from Portsmouth. By virtue of these two thousand acres are to be granted for every five men (between sixteen and fifty) imported in 1633; one thousand acres for every five men imported in 1634 or since; for lesser numbers one hundred acres for each man or woman and fifty acres for each child; each tract of 1000, 2000 or 3000 acres to be erected into a manor under such name as the adventurer may choose; rents to average twenty pounds of wheat per hundred acres annually.26 After this three subsequent Conditions of Plantation were published, all from London, in 1641, 1648 and 1649. All were finally supplanted by the new 1683 ruling governing conditions of plantation by which all granting of land was put on a money payment basis. In this same category various letters and proclamations by the Lord Proprietor may be mentioned. While Lord Baltimore was in England he often sent commissions and letters of instruction to the Governor concerning land affairs. The Governor in turn would

issue proclamations setting forth the instructions which often were exhortations to colonists to prove land rights before a certain date, extra instructions in regard to procedure with manors, more specific directions as to who should be allowed to take up grants and where, and so on. These are to be found recorded in the early Patents or in the Council Proceedings for that period.

CONTENTS OF PATENTS, WARRANTS AND PROPRIETARY LEASES SERIES

The first type of Maryland land record proper to be found is the record of entry. These include entry records of people who came in 1633, but the earliest date of recording is not till a few years later. The earliest ones, as may be observed on the first pages of Liber I of the Patents, are bare reports of arrival in the colony, such as:

Came into the Province 28th November 1637 in the ship called the Unity of the Isle of Wight—Mr. John Lewger, who transported his wife, his son John aged 9 years, Martha Williamson, Ann Pike, and Mary Whitehead, Maid Servants, Benjamin Cobb, Phillip Linus, Thomas Purston, and a Boy Robert Serle aged 12 years.

This type of entry was a little too simple because it did not state the exact number of persons transported. Since land was granted according to the number of persons brought in the entries had to be more specific, as appears a little further on in the record:

Entered by John Lewger, Secretary, brought into the Province in the year 1637, John Lewger, senior, Ann his wife, John Lewger, Jr. aged 9 years—Martha Williamson, Ann Pike, Mary Whitehead maid servants Benjamin Cobb and the same persons mentioned in the entry of arrivals, and others to the number of 22.

The latter type of entry is supposed to be an official admission or proof of the claims of the various parties to land proportionate to the number of persons brought in by them. At a later date, 1662, these entry records were ordered to be made under oath.27 They came to be called “proofs of rights” and in their definitive form read:

28 July 1671 Came John Brown of St. Mary’s County and proved his Right to fifty Acres of Land it being due to him for

24 Meresness, pp. 72.
26 Patents, Liber 4, p. 61, 62.
27 Kelly, p. 76; Council Book HH, p. 148.
transporting himself out of Virginie into this province to inhabite.  

The second type of record that appears goes by the name of a demand. This is simply a demand on the part of the arrival for a warrant of survey for the amount of land coming to him. These demands might be grounded upon Conditions of Plantation as:

4th April 1643. Nathaniel Orchard demandeth 100 acres of land due by Conditions of Plantation for transporting himself into the Province in the year 1640.

or upon special warrants granted by Lord Baltimore under whatever terms he chose to impose.

The next logical instrument is the warrant itself. This is an official precept issued by the Governor or by the Secretary, and later by the Registers and various others empowered thereto, to the Surveyor, directing him to lay out and survey the requisite amount of land for the claimant and to return a certificate of his survey. For example:

4th March 1641—Lay out for John Cockslant, fifty acres of land upon the Hill next beyond the hill Creek called St. Joseph’s Hill and certify the bounds thereof unto our Secretary without delay.

In addition to the foregoing “common warrant” there was also the “special warrant” issued or directed to be issued by Lord Baltimore himself with whatever conditions he might prescribe. Included in this category would be gifts, grants, orders; and so on. For example, James Lindsey and Richard Willan were given a special warrant for a grant of the manor of Snow Hill as a reward for service rendered by them during Ingle’s insurrection.

Sometimes too, conditional warrants were granted—warrants issued on an agreement to make rights good within a specified time. Similarly, later on when money payments took the place of entry rights, warrants were occasionally granted on credit.

After the warrant had been obtained the certificate of survey was the record to be procured next. It was to follow the warrant within some prescribed time, at this time still arbitrary, but usually aver-

aging six months. When the survey had been completed it was signed by the Surveyor General who returned it to the Secretary’s office. A certificate of survey dated Dec. 4, 1639 in Liber 1 of Patents reads:

Laid out for Mr. William Lewis one neck of land lying upon the northern side of St. Isigoes Creek and bounding on the west with St. Andrew’s Creek; on the east with the freehold of St. Maries Hill, and on the north with the town land of Robert Clerk as it is distinguished by marked trees containing thirty acres or thereabouts.

 JOHN LEEGER (Surveyor)

When the foregoing records had all been completed and if no objections were forthcoming the patent itself was granted under the great seal, signed by the Governor and endorsed by the Secretary and the Surveyor General. The patent or grant was of the nature of a deed, and gave the consideration for which the grant was made, the description of the grant as found in the certificate of survey and the conditions of tenure. The following is an example of a patent:

Caecilus: To all persons to whom these presents shall come greeting in our Lord God Everlasting. Know ye that we for and in consideration that George Peake of this province planter, hath due unto him Three hundred Acres of Land for the transportation of several persons into this Province here to inhabit as appears upon record. And upon such conditions and terms as are expressed in our conditions of plantation of our Province of Maryland under our greater Seal at Armes bearing date at London the Second day of July in the Year of our Lord God One thousand six hundred forty nine with such alteration as is made by our declaration bearing date the twenty Sixth day of August One thousand six hundred fifty one and remaining upon record in our said Province of Maryland Do hereby grant unto him the sd George Peake a Parcell of Land (called Peake Marsh) lying in Talberts County on the North side of Choptanck River. . . . To have and to hold the same unto him the said George Peake his heirs and assigns forever To be helden of us and our heirs, as of our Manor of Baltomore in free and common Soccage by fesality only for all manner of Services Yeilding and paying therefore yearly unto us and our heirs at our receipt at Saint Maries at the two most

These two terms are used interchangeably though the latter usually refers to what is granted and the former to the record of it.

Meredith, p. 51.
real nature and importance—the extension and improvement of one’s land. Though there were theoretical restrictions, the resurvey warrant was permitted to serve a variety of advantageous purposes such as the excluding of bad and taking in of better lands, obtaining allowance for actual deficiency, for water comprehended in the first survey or ground subsequently washed away, etc.\textsuperscript{37}

Escheat warrants also present an enormous figure on the records, partly no doubt, for the same reason as the resurvey warrants. The practice of escheat—whereby land escheated or reverted to the Lord Proprietor—was an inheritance from the feudal system of land tenure. In practice a man might present a petition to the land authorities stating that his neighbor had died without heirs and requesting a decision as to whether the land was liable to escheat or not. If the decision of the investigating jury confirmed the escheatability of the land, the petitioner then applied for an escheat warrant and was usually given preference over others as the “discoverer”, in obtaining the warrant. (Since escheats were not easily traceable by the land officers, it was the policy to give some premium to discoverers).\textsuperscript{38} This sort of warrant brought with it the same privileges already mentioned in connection with resurvey warrants. The type did not occur frequently before the last quarter of the 17th century but increased greatly after that and continued to be issued down to the Revolution. In the latter part of the proprietary period, however, proclamation warrants came to supersede escheat warrants to a considerable extent especially in cases of land reverting for reasons other than lack of heirs. The warrants in question are founded upon three successive proclamations of Charles, Lord Baltimore, whereby persons who had made surveys comprehending vacant or escheat land, and who neglected to pay or compound therefor, and to take out their patents within a limited time, were subjected to the loss of all the rights derived from such surveys; the lands becoming by means of such omission liable to be taken by the first discoverer, under new warrants to be obtained for that purpose.\textsuperscript{39}

Surplus warrants are unique in that they were issued for a very short period only—between 1735 and 1738. They represent an attempt on the part of the Lord Proprietor to recover some of the excess of land included with the bounds of surveys beyond the

\textsuperscript{34} Patents, Liber 8, p. 72.
\textsuperscript{35} Kilty, p. 211.
\textsuperscript{36} Ibid., pp. 77-8.
\textsuperscript{37} Ibid., p. 134-5.
\textsuperscript{38} Ibid., p. 174.
\textsuperscript{39} Ibid., p. 186-7.
quantities intended and declared to be granted. Various attempts were made, by proclamations, to get people to resurvey their land and either give up or purchase their surplus. Results being negligible the Proprietor in 1753 issued another proclamation giving to the first discoverers the privilege of making surveys on the lands of others and appropriating to themselves the surplusage. The warrants arising therefrom caused such confusion and dissatisfaction however that they were soon discontinued, and further efforts on the part of the Lord Proprietor to recover surplus lands met with increasingly fruitless results.\(^{40}\)

Another widely used instrument was the caveat. This is the name given to the formal complaint, protesting issuance of patent, which a person lodged with the Governor or Secretary or other proper authority in the Land Office whenever such a person discovered that the survey or warrant of another was going to interfere with his rights. After the complaint had been formally entered the matter was brought to a hearing and determined on “principles of equity and good conscience” by the chief authority of the Land Office. An irregular use of caveats developed during the years of the Cromwell protectorate when they were entered in the Land Office for lands which individuals wanted to secure for themselves till some future time when they could have it surveyed. The practice was abolished after the Restoration of Charles II.\(^{41}\)

Manor leases are one other form of record to be mentioned. The proprietary manors made up a huge amount of land and from the very beginning were offered to be leased to tenants in small holdings. Probably because of the abundance of cheap land that could be privately owned, these leases were not taken up to any great extent during the seventeenth century. After the restoration of proprietary rights when good vacant land was beginning to become scarce the manor leasing flourished and became a source of considerable income to the Proprietor. Rent on these leases in the earlier part of the eighteenth century was almost uniformly ten shillings per hundred acres, but as the manors became more developed and increased in value rents were pushed up so that in 1755 rents in Anne Arundel Manor were increased to five pounds sterling per hundred acres. In addition to rents, there were often provisions in the leases requiring

\(^{40}\) Ibid., p. 197-8.
\(^{41}\) Ibid., p. 215.

the erection of dwellings and the planting of fruit trees, etc. Terms of the leases ran from five to twenty-one years or for three lives, with a strong tendency to favor three lives and twenty-one years, the Proprietor generally refusing to grant leases for any longer terms. When manor land was leased, the steward in charge of the manor ran the lines of the tenement, made out a certificate, and drew a lease in duplicate. These were sent to the agent, who, if he approved, signed the leases himself, secured the Governor’s signature, and returned one of the duplicates to the steward to be delivered to the tenant. Each steward was supposed to keep a roll on which all leases were entered and which showed the amounts of rent due. According to this roll the rents were collected and turned over to the agent.\(^{42}\)

PATENTS, WARRANTS AND PROPRIETARY LEASES
AS ARCHIVAL SERIES

At the beginning, of course, the land records were not divided into series; they were not even segregated and kept as one series. For the first few years land records, Court Proceedings, Assembly Proceedings and every kind of business, were entered into one book in the order of their occurrence, and kept in the office of the Secretary of the province. Because of this circumstance the first volumes of the Land Office records have preserved in copied form valuable records and proceedings otherwise lost. This situation holds true only of the very first volumes, however, for almost immediately separate land records began to be kept. In fact, in Liber A B & H of the Patents series we have the case of a volume made up of land records extracted from among the Court Proceedings and other business of Liber A, F and H and put into one convenient volume of just land records.

After the separate set of records for land was established it was still quite a while before any separation of the different types of land records into series took place. Assignments, entry rights, patents, warrants, certificates were all entered just as they came into the office. The first step towards an orderly organization was the putting of little batches of certificates, of warrants, of patents, together. This idea gradually developed and in 1680, just after the

\(^{42}\) Gould, p. 91-97.
Land Office was first organized and the numerous reforms of the second Lord Baltimore put into effect, separate volumes came to be devoted to patents, to warrants, and to certificates and assignments. Things did not immediately proceed quite this definitely for there was a relapse for a short time, possibly due to the unsettlement preceding the Revolution of 1688. It is safe to say, however, that from 1700 on the separation of patents, certificates and warrants was definite and steadily perfected itself. Actually, instead of two series there are three, for though patents and certificates are included in the same series, each is kept in different volumes.

The Patents series, from 1634 to 1777, contains one hundred and thirty-three volumes of which some sixty-nine contain patents only, some thirty-eight contain certificates and assignments only and the remainder—all belonging to the earliest period—contain land records of all types. The first four books of the Patents series, as has already been suggested and as may be noted in the appended list, contain not only land records of all types but also Court Proceedings, proclamations, Assembly Proceedings and other kinds of business of the province. With Liber 4, or AB&H as it is also called, the entries become confined to land records and from Liber 25 on (or about the year 1680) patents and certificates begin to be kept separately.

The Warrants series contains forty-two volumes, the earliest dating from 1661. Actually, the first two volumes of the series contain land records of all types (they are also both duplicated in the Patents series) and the second two contain primarily the proceedings of the Land Council, so that the Warrants series proper might be considered to begin with the fifth volume of the series—or around 1680 when warrants first began to be kept separately from other land records.

As had already been noted, these records were kept in the Secretary’s office in the early day of the province. In 1680, with the establishment of the Land Office and the creation of the office of Register of the Land Office, the Register became the custodian of them. During the royal government period the controversy over the public or private nature of the land records resulted as we have seen in the patents, warrants and all records relating to title being adjudged public and hence left in the custody of the Royal Secretary rather than with the Proprietor’s Agent. At the end of the royal period the Register again resumed custody and kept it throughout the remainder of the colonial period.

The records of these two important series have on the whole been preserved remarkably well. On not a few occasions, from the seventeenth century on, there was agitation and subsequent legislative action in the interests of their preservation. With the lists of land records as they exist today I have included a list of the land records as they existed in 1680 (a list identical, except for later additions, to another list compiled in 1694). Only four of the thirty books of the 1680 list are missing today and one of them, Liber D, is not a land record but a book of instructions pertaining to land matters and another, Liber BM, is a land record of a restricted type. It deals with lands in what is now Delaware, and may possibly be in existence in that state. The other two missing volumes are Liber B & K "Burles 2 Bookes of Rights from 1649 to 1657", and Liber P "Booke of Rights & Warrants 1660" which appears to be missing already on the 1694 list.

PROPRIETARY LEASES

The Proprietary Leases series consists of just three volumes. All the leases, as the title implies, are leases between the Lord Proprietor (represented by his agent) and individuals who rented lands on his manors or reserves. It appears that though some leases were recorded in county land records, as a whole they were not recorded regularly in a separate volume series the way patents and other instruments were. Instead they were made out in duplicate and the lessee and the agent each received a copy. The agent was to keep these, but apparently he lacked a methodical system in so doing. In 1757 Governor Sharpe complains to the proprietor of “the Neglect of those who have heretofore had the Care & Management of these Lands None of whom have recorded or kept Copies of the Leases that they granted, & as many Tenants have lost their leases & know not how their Lands are situated or bounded.” Later the same year he writes in another letter to Lord Baltimore: “... The Steward

44 cf. p. 77.
45 Arch. Md., XX, 192-200.
46 Ibid., VI, 322-323.
or Agent should I think keep a Book by way of Record for every manner wherein all Leases for or Agreements concerning Parcels of such Mannour should be duly entered & also a proper and particular Description of every Tract or parcell that should be leased or Tenanted ..." In his 1761 instructions for setting up the Board of Revenue, Lord Baltimore specifically provided for proper custody of his leases:

After the said Office shall be fitted up, you are to lodge therein all Counterparts of Leases (which have been granted for any Lands of mine) that are now in your possession, and as often as our Lieutenant Governor, and you, shall for the future grant any Leases for my Manor or Reserved Lands, you shall Lodge the Counterparts thereof in the said Office, placing and tiltting them in such Methodical manner as that Recourse may easily be had thereto on all Occasions.

The apparent neglect in keeping the proprietary leases was doubtless partly due to the fact that in the early days there were not many leases held because there was so much freehold land available. Further, during the royal period the manors seem to have been much neglected and the whole system of proprietary leasing allowed to go to pieces. Under the circumstances it is not difficult to understand that orderly preservation of the leases did not prevail. After the royal period, the Proprietor's interest in the manors revived, there was a considerable increase in the number of tenants and more efficient methods of supervising the manors were adopted. In fact manor rents were at their peak and showed promise of further increase at the time when Lord Baltimore decided to sell all his manors in 1764. By far the great majority of leases in this series are dated after 1730.

Although, as we have seen, Governor Sharpe in 1756 was advocating recording of the leases, his plan was apparently never carried out by the proprietary government. The three volumes of leases as we have them were not compiled till almost a century later, when George G. Brewer, Register of the Land Office from 1827 to 1851, seems to have arranged and recorded them. The first two volumes consist entirely of leases of lands in Baltimore County and the third volume contains leases from Anne Arundel, Cecil, Kent, Queen Anne's, Dorchester, St. Mary's, Charles, Somerset, Worcester, and Prince George's counties. Entries of leases are alphabetical by name of lease-holder except in the third volume where this order is not always maintained. Dates of the leases range from 1707 to 1771, with the majority falling in the forties and fifties.

At one time there were also plats to the Proprietor's manors. Governor Sharpe in a letter to Lord Baltimore in 1757 speaks of having "entered in a Book Platts of most of your Ldps Mannours in the different parts of the Province." That book may exist somewhere among the Calvert family papers. The Land Office has about a dozen individual manor plats in its custody at the present time.

RENT ROLLS AND DEBT BOOKS SERIES

The two remaining series of Land Office records, the Rent Rolls and Debt Books are considerably different from the records of the Patents and Warrants series. In a sense they are just the Lord Proprietor's account books and not Land Office records at all. In fact the dispute over the public or private nature of land records during the royal period definitely established the rent rolls and debt books as private records. However, since all land records were looked upon as more or less private prior to this dispute and the Land Office considered a private matter by the Proprietor himself, it is plain that before the royal period rent rolls and debt books were considered Land Office records. Furthermore, while the Proprietor's personal hold on land affairs was much weakened during the royal period it was immediately revived when his proprietary rights were restored in 1715. Forceful efficiency measures on his part tended to bring land and revenue matters back under the old single rein, as witness the fact that in 1760 the Proprietor "proposed that part of that Office [the Land Office] shall be a Repository for all the Farm Contracts from the Rent Roll Keepers... And in that Office to be Deposited the Leases of all Mannour Lands & of all other Rights payable to the Ld Proprietor..." Likewise in 1770-1771 we find the question of the private or public nature of

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47 Ibid., IX, 62.
48 Ibid., XXXII, 391.
49 In Proprietary Leases, Liber B, pp. 595 and 601 certain footnotes or notations concerning endorsements on leases are to be found. They are signed "Geo. G. Brewer Reg. Land Office" and there is no doubt, from the handwriting and arrangement on the page, that they were written at the time the leases were copied.
50 Arch. Md., VI, 522.
51 Ibid., IX, 403.
the Land Office causing a great stir again. So, although rent rolls and debt books came more and more to be classified among the Proprietor's revenue records—in 1769 the Proprietor wrote that he "thinks it proper that the Rent Roll Keepers place should belong to the Office of the Receivers General"—the connection between the revenue system and operations of the Land Office was nevertheless so close as to make it almost impossible to separate the two completely from each other. Thus it seems that while it is safe to call rent rolls and debt books private in contrast to patents and warrants it is not permissible to exclude them as non-Land Office records.

The rent rolls and debt books are the books in which the Lord Proprietor kept track of the rents due him. Each piece of land granted to a person was subject to a yearly rent according to the terms in the patent. The original owner might die and his son inherit; in such a case the son then paid the rent. If a man sold his land, the new owner was then to pay the rent. In any case the Lord Proprietor was to continue receiving his annual rent on every tract of land granted. A rent roll consists of entries of each tract of land patented plus the name of the person for whom it was originally surveyed, the present owner and the acreage and rent. Alienations, or subsequent sales and leases of the piece of land, are also included. A debt book consists of a list of persons owning land with the names and rents of each tract he owns all listed in one place under his name. In other words debt-book entries are by the name of the owner whereas rent-roll entries are by the name of tracts of land. They plainly represent a more efficient method of collecting rents—a corollary and later refinement of rent rolls. Since debt books do not appear until a hundred years after the rent rolls and are more or less just a modification of them, this series will necessarily receive subordinate treatment. Rent rolls and debt books as we have them are always made out by counties but it is to be assumed that in the very earliest days a common rent roll was kept for all tracts of land.

The first rent roll of the series dates from the year 1659 but, as has just been suggested, there were probably earlier ones in one form or another. Keeping wills, patents and court proceedings all in the same volume was all very well, but to depend on such a helter-skelter arrangement for looking up and computing the rents—even in those first twenty years or so of the colony—would have been highly inefficient to say the least. At this early period the preparation and keeping of rent rolls were in the hands of the Secretary of the province and the Surveyor General. With the creation of the office of Receiver General, another official took a hand in the compiling of the rent rolls, for in 1678 there was a proclamation of the Proprietor ordering recording of alienations "in order that the Secretary and the Receiver General might be able to make a complete rent roll." Indeed, sometime before 1676 the Proprietor appointed two Receivers General of his rents and other dues and authorized them to appoint deputies. From an early date whoever was in charge of rent rolls was assisted by the sheriffs who made the collections locally and forwarded them. A commission to the sheriffs from the governor in 1671 reads:

These are therefore in the name of his said Lordship to will and Command you that you Cause a true and perfect Rent Roll to be made of all and singular the Lands in your County and in whose possession they now are & distinguish them by Debtor and Creditor and give them Credit that have paid and if they have not paid then to each piece of Land say (over against it) not paid and if there be no distress you shall likewise insert so over against the said Land you shall make a full Inquiry into all and singular the premises that you may be the better Enabled to make a Certain and Perfect Rent Roll which Rent Roll shall begin with the first Seated hundred in your County and so successively & the said Rent Roll and a true Copy thereof attested under your hand that you personally bring with you into the City of Saint Marys the first day of October next ensuing the date hereof and therein exhibit unto my self and Council who will be God willing then there to make a full Examination into his Lordships Rents and also give you such further Orders Instructions and directions touching both that and other his Lordships Affairs as to us shall seem expedient... From 1689 to 1715 Maryland became a royal colony and the Proprietor had continually to contend for his rights in land affairs and the custody of the land records. Between 1689 and 1694 the Land

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62 Lower House Journal, November 22, 1771; Mereness, pp. 71-75.
63 Arch. Md., IX, 404.
64 Arch. Md., V, 94 ff.; Mereness, p. 59.
65 Arch. Md., XV, pp. 159, 160; Mereness, p. 60.
Office was closed. During this whole period a special land agent appointed by the Proprietor (he had previously been the Receiver General) represented and championed the latter in all matters pertaining to land and it was he who had charge of the rent rolls at this time. The agent continued to be Receiver General in charge of rent rolls after the restoration of Lord Baltimore’s rights in 1715 but since the tobacco tax took the place of quit rents during the years between 1717 and 1733 rent rolls were not as important during these years and not carefully kept. Still, the Proprietor attempted to keep his records straight in this respect. In 1722 he wrote to his agent Nicholas Lowe:

... You are to acquaint Mr. James Carroll that I would have him make out my Rent Roll according to my late Directions to him, in the doing whereof I desire him to Consult with you and Transmit it forthwith to me... 

and in 1724 Lord Baltimore granted Carroll fifty-eight hundred acres of land with the proviso “But he is to pay me no fine, it being a reward bestowed on him (in addition to the 4,200 acres formerly given him) for his labor and pains in keeping and making out my rent rolls...”

In 1733, with the resumption of the payment of quit rents, the Proprietor issued a great many new instructions designed to facilitate collection. The Governor and the Agent were to appoint two general rent-roll keepers, one for each shore. The rents were to be collected by deputy receivers in each county or by quit rent farmers who were to return them annually to the rent roll keeper of their respective shores. The sheriff often served as deputy receiver, if that method was used. The farmer on the other hand did not always collect by counties, sometimes collecting in just a part of a county, or sometimes contracting to collect in two or three counties. The Eastern Shore debt books date from this period.

The Proprietor made a still more definite and far-reaching attempt to increase the efficiency of quit rent collection when he established the Board of Revenue in 1766 and gave it highest control over all matters pertaining to his revenues. It had jurisdiction over every class of officers concerned in the management or collection of his revenues, the Commissary General, Clerks of the provincial and county courts, the Attorney General, Sheriffs, Examiner, and Naval Officers as well as those having to do with the collection of quit rents. Since this system represents the highest point of development in the keeping of rent rolls and debt books it may be well to observe it in some detail in Kilty’s admirable analysis:

... There was a general rent roll keeper for each shore, whose duty it was by a certain day in every year to make out, sign, and deliver, the necessary debt books to the farmers or receivers of the quit rents in each county of their respective shores. In order that the rent rolls might be complete the judges of the land office were bound to return to the keepers, annually a list of all the lands patented within the twelve months immediately preceding. Returns were also to be made to them by the commissary general, and register of the prerogative office, of all alterations in the possession and title of lands, whether by descent or devise, and the clerks of the provincial and county courts were to make return of all alienations of land by them recorded within the year, the substance of which returns was to be added to the former entries;—the debt books contained the names of all persons that possessed land within the counties for which they were respectively made; and the name and quantity of every parcel of land, under what rent held, and what quit rents each tenant was annually to pay for his land whether he might hold one or more tracts,—the gross amount of those debt books was to be reported by the keepers to the proprietary’s agent, and new and complete copies of the rentall were to be prepared by them, and lodged with the clerk of the revenue office.

The receivers were to return back, within a stated time, annually, the debt books received by them for the preceding year, accompanied by such observations as might tend to make the rent rolls more perfect, and with a probate that no quit rents had been received which were not there stated; that they know of no tracts patented, improved, or occupied, but what was there entered, and that the persons employed by them to assist in the collection had taken a similar oath.

The rent roll keeper upon thus receiving back the debt books, stated an account for each receiver, debiting him with the gross amount of the debt book, and crediting him with all warranted allowances, any disputes concerning which were to be submitted to the revenue board, and distinct copies of these accounts were to be furnished to the agent, and to the board.

The receivers were authorized to sue or distrain in his lordship’s name or their own. — On blank leaves, to be left in the debt books, they were to note alienations happening after the
receipt of those books, and errors and defects in the books themselves;—to enter lands not duly charged;—to demand arrears of rent, and to consider the discovery of such arrears, a part of their duty.

In consideration that the rents were payable half yearly by the tenants, the receivers were required to make a payment of one third directly after their first receipts, and to make before the close of the year a full and complete settlement with the rent roll keeper;—immediately after such settlement, to produce to the receiver general the debt books, examined by the keeper, together with the settled account, signed, and pay the remaining two thirds of the collections, ten per cent being allowed for their services;—they were to have free access to all offices, with liberty to take copies or extracts without fee, unless the attestation of the officer was required, and were to transfer such copies to their successors; in case of disputes with the tenants, they were to apply to the attorney general or his deputies for advice and assistance: they were in all things to observe the instructions of the board of revenue, and to return all books and papers in their charge to that board when called for.\textsuperscript{59}

It is clear that the Board of Revenue exercised a most effective control over the collection and book-keeping of the Proprietor’s quit rents. Such then, was the final development in the keeping of rent rolls and debt books, for the Board of Revenue continued to operate till the Revolution.

The rent rolls in the present Land Office appear to be a complete, continuous series from 1639 to 1776 and are frequently so listed, but this is not exactly the case. The first book of the series—Liber 0—contains the rent rolls of St. Mary’s, Charles, Calvert and Kent counties, four volumes, each with individual paging bound together into one single re-paginated volume. Entries go up to but not beyond 1659 and at the end of the Charles and Kent County rent rolls is found the notation “Extrahitur ex Record” with the signature “Phillip Calvert Sec.” Calvert was Secretary between 1656 and 1660 so it seems permissible to assign 1659 as the definite date of Liber 0. This book is unique in the series, having much more detailed entries and a different form from all the other volumes in addition to a definite date of completion, 1659. It is definitely an authentic, contemporary rent roll whereas it is difficult to date any of the other rent rolls until much later. Its uniqueness in this series is explained by the fact that it is a photocopy, recently made, of original rent rolls in the possession of the Maryland Historical Society. Owing partly to the private aspect of rent rolls and debt books and partly to the custom of making duplicate copies of them, a considerable number of these are to be found in private collections, particularly the Calvert Papers.

As for the rest of the series, the year 1734 seems to mark a definite point. All entries previous to 1734 are noted in Eastern Shore rent rolls as being in the “Old Rent Roll” and subsequent additional rent rolls are regularly entered each year thereafter. All the entries in the “Old Rent Roll” appear to have been copied at one time, i.e., there is no complete rent roll for an earlier date such as the 1659 one in Liber 0. There were other original rent rolls previous to 1734, because some are extant in private collections. The fact that they, like the original of Liber 0, do not exist in such form in the Rent Roll series in the Land Office today is not too difficult to explain. It has already been noted that during the controversy over land records while Maryland was a royal colony it was decided that whereas patents, warrants, certificates, etc. were a matter of public concern and therefore to be kept by the royal government and open to the public, rent rolls were the private business of the Proprietor. As such, rent rolls were kept by the Proprietor’s agent and did not become public records in the sense that patents, etc. recorded at that time did. A second fact to be taken into account is that between 1717 and 1733 a law provided for payment of a tobacco tax on every hogshead of tobacco shipped out of the province to take the place of payment of quit rents. It is not strange that during this period, as Mereness points out, the rent rolls fell into confusion by disuse.\textsuperscript{61} A third consideration, and a most likely one it seems to me, is that the rent rolls as the Land Office has them (with the exception of Liber 0) were compiled in 1733 and thereafter, but were based on earlier rent rolls then in existence. The year 1733 marked the end of the system of paying tobacco tax in lieu of quit rents and with the re-establishment of the quit rent system the proprietor took steps to improve the rent collection system. What more logical than the compiling of fresh new rent rolls to resume the system with, especially if recent ones had been incomplete and ill kept?

\textsuperscript{59} Arch. Md., XXXII, 391 et seq.; Kitty, pp. 258-260.

\textsuperscript{61} Mereness, p. 85.
After 1734 the *Rent Rolls* series seems to proceed in continuous, complete fashion, especially in the Eastern Shore rolls. Western Shore rent rolls after 1734 were not kept in a uniform, orderly fashion each year until many years later. There, every few years or so each county seemed to make up a rent roll which would then be known as the "Rent Roll of 1758" or the "Rent Roll of 1762", in which all entries were brought up to date since the last rent roll. But the years varied in different counties and it is impossible to say that the series is complete even though all dates seem to be included, with the exception of Calvert and St. Mary's Counties for which no entries between 1769 and 1775 are to be found. In 1768 the Board of Revenue apparently established a more rigid system and a regular annual additional rent roll was made for each county, as had been done in Eastern Shore counties ever since 1734.

The *Debt Book* series, as has been pointed out, goes back to 1733 for the Eastern Shore counties. Western Shore debt books in the Land Office series begin in 1753, but debt books for the year 1750 are to be found in the Calvert Papers for five Western Shore counties. Each debt book, in its present make-up, consists of from two to eight small volumes bound together into one. This series appears to have been very imperfectly preserved. Over a third of the small annual volumes are missing, mostly in Eastern Shore counties. Only for Charles and St. Mary's counties has the whole series been preserved completely, and since these are both Western Shore counties that means they only date from 1753. Like the rent rolls the debt books were made out in duplicate.

Apropos of the missing debt books and rent rolls mentioned in the foregoing paragraphs, it would seem that the Land Office in the colonial period had a great many more books and papers relating to quit rents which are no longer to be found. This is primarily due, no doubt, to the fact that they were private revenue papers of the Proprietor rather than public records, and secondarily, to the fact that they were for the most part papers rather than volumes. "A List of Books and Papers Relating to the Right Honourable the Lord Proprietary's Rent Rolls of the Eastern Shore, received from Col. Edward Tilghman Nov. 13, 1756" enumerates in addition to rent rolls and debt books, a great number of alienation lists, lists of de-
CUSTODIANSHIP

Although the foregoing five series are now and have been for a long time in the custody of the Land Office, such was not always the case. Patents and Warrants have, it is true, always been in the custody of the Land Office. Before the Revolution, Proprietary leases were in the custody of the Secretary or the Agent until, in 1760, the Proprietors ordered them deposited in the Land Office.63 Rent Rolls and Debt Books were successively in the custody of the Secretary, the Agent and the Receiver General. After the Revolution the three latter series presumably fell into the custody of the Western Shore Treasurer who by an Act of 1781 (ch. 29, section 4) was to "have the care and possession of all the debt books and other papers relative to the revenue of the late proprietaries."64 The Proprietary leases seem after this to have come successively into the custody of the Intendant of the Revenue, the Auditor General and the Clerk of the Council, for in 1829 books and papers of the late Auditor General’s office were transferred from the Clerk of the Council to the Register of the Land Office of the Western Shore, the latter being required to take charge of all books and papers which were formerly kept in the Auditor General’s office relative to confiscated lands in the state sold by the Intendant of the Revenue or those directly or indirectly connected with the Land Office.65 Resolution No. 21 for the year 1828 specifically mentions “several Record Books which belonged to the office of the late Auditor General in which are recorded a number of old leases of lands in this state”. These, included among the records and papers given over to the Clerk of the Council by the Auditor General’s office when it was abolished, are authorized to be delivered by the former to the Register of the Western Shore Land Office. Resolution No. 18 for the year 1832 notes that "there was deposited in the Western Shore Land Office a small number of old leases from the Lord Proprietor of certain individuals for lands lying in the reserves of the State, and whereas the Register of the Land Office was not directed...to record said leases, they...have have never been recorded and as there are many persons deriving their whole title to said lands by said leases it is important that they should be recorded....Resolved...that the Register of the Land Office for the Western Shore be...authorized...to record said leases in a good and sufficient bound book for that purpose..." George G. Brewer was Clerk of the Assembly at this time and, as we have seen, it was he who transcribed the leases as had been authorized. Whether some of the leases were loose papers and some of them already recorded in books as Resolution No. 21 for 1828 seems to indicate, is probably undeterminable, since only Brewer’s three-volume transcription appears to be extant.

The date of accession of the Debt Books and Rent Rolls into the Land Office is not easily ascertained. In 1805 there were two resolutions requiring the Clerk of the Council to examine the debt books and complete the indexes, giving the impression that they were then in his care. Kilty, however, writing in 1808 says, “The register of the land office for the western shore has the care and custody of the records and papers arising under the provincial government, not expressly by any law, passed since the revolution, for that of 1781, gives to the registers the charge only of the short extracts of certificates and grants therein mentioned; but, because the records at large, which have been claimed and kept by the state, naturally fell into the hands of that officer and were indeed, placed in his charge by the governor and council when they were surrendered by the proprietary’s officers.”66 In 1819, at any rate, debt books for both shores are acknowledged to be in the Land Office, the Western Shore debt books having just recently been deposited there by the Clerk of the Council.67 No such exact data can be given as to when and whence the Rent Rolls came to the Land Office. A resolution of 1815 authorized the Register of the Land Office to transcribe certain records including Anne Arundel County Rent Roll No. 1, so it is probable all the rent rolls were by then in the custody of the Land Office. One exception to this, of course, is Rent Roll Liber O, which was photocopied from Maryland Historical Society originals and added to the Rent Rolls series by the present Chief Clerk of the Land Office, Mr. Arthur Trader.

The Land Office itself was housed in the State House at St. Mary’s till 1691 when the capital was moved to Annapolis. Then it took up temporary residence in the Anne Arundel County Court-
but more likely due to the copy's being an abridged form of the original; 74 no index; entries from 1636 to 1642; contains proofs of rights, warrants, demands, certificates, patents and assignments as well as commissions, instructions, orders, letters, marriage license applications and other court proceedings, especially in the first and last parts of the book.

Proprietary Records Liber B—387 numbered pages, according to the original pagination retained in the copy, followed by some 10 unnumbered pages and these in turn followed by 45 numbered pages at the end of the book containing Acts and Orders of the General Assembly of 1654 and 1657; at p. 48 the page numbering starts over again with 29 but then proceeds regularly; 75 entries from 1646 to 1658; contains demands, proofs of rights, warrants, certificates, caveats, patents, assignments and commissions, but consists mostly of other court proceedings.

Proprietary Records Liber A—389 pages, in many cases illegibly numbered, with the first 56 pages mis-

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74 Probably by leaving out entries of court proceedings.
75 About half of these first 48 pages consist of rather regular court proceedings entries from the years 1646 and 1647. Because the rest of the regular entries of Liber B are of 1650 or 1651 and later and because of the early close relationship apparently existing between Liber A and B (as may be noted in the 1680 list) it is possible that some of the missing first 56 pages of Liber A are to be sought here.
76 The exact title of this book is not known; its present one having been given it by an 18th-century records committee. Since no corresponding volume is mentioned in the 1680 list it may have been lost for a time. The copy in Liber 2 is complete but for the addition of one entry, Sept. 22, 1638 and the exclusion of entries on pp. 3, 32, 76 and pp. 1–3 of Testamentary papers, and the Wills (cf. Arch. Md., I, xiv).
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PATENTS SERIES

Liber 0—"Patent Records Original WC No. 2 1679 to 1681"; 416 numbered pages; index; title page: "WC No. 2 a Transcribed Record"; 72 entries from 1679 to 1681; contains warrants, proofs of rights, assignments, petitions, commissions, letters of Land Office officials.

Liber 1—photocopy of a copy, made in 1724, of missing original Proprietary Records Liber F (pp. 1-161) and part of missing original Proprietary Records Liber B (pp. 162-640).

Proprietary Records Liber F—176 numbered pages according to the original pagination retained in the copy; some 20 scattered pages of the original are not included in the copy, possibly through loss or error.

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70 Catalogue of Archival Material, Maryland Hall of Records, p. 117.
71 Ibid., p. 87.
72 This title page is on a sheet of paper completely different from the rest of the book and may represent an error in binding as the book itself has all the earmarks of being an original.
73 Notation in faded ink at top of pages 84-85 reads: "Mr. Zakaria Cooke of Corke Marchant is Debtor" and "Per Contra is Creditor" suggesting the possibility that this book was originally intended as a merchant's account book.
VOLUME INDEXES

General Index to Cer. & Pat. 1658 to 1694—No. 2.
General Index to Cer. & Pat. 1686 to 1776—No. 3.
General Index to Patents 1680 to 1759—No. 5.
General Index to Patents 1759 to 1777—No. 6.
General Index to Warrants & Assignments Earliest to 1688—No. 1.
General Index Warrants 1679 to 1751—No. 1.
General Index Warrants 1751 to 1764—No. 2.
General Index Warrants 1764 to 1774—No. 3.
General Index Warrants 1774 to 1803—No. 4.

Index to Debt Books—1753-1774—Dorchester, Somerset and Worcester Counties.
Index to Debt Books—1753-1775—Queen Anne’s, Kent, Talbot and Cecil Counties.
Index to Debt Books—1753-1774—St. Mary’s and Charles Counties.
Index to Debt Books—1753-1774—Frederick County.
Index to Debt Books—1753-1772—Calvert and Prince George’s Counties.
Index to Debt Books—1754-1771—Baltimore County.
Index to Additional Debt Books Eastern Shores, includes returns from Worcester, Dorchester, Somerset, Cecil, Kent and Talbot—1734-1759.

General Index to the Debt Books of Anne Arundel County 1753.

A List of the Records of Lands taken out of the Secretary's Office for which John Llewelin Register Appointed for the Land Office passed his Receipt the 7th April Anno 1680; according to his Lordships orders of the 3rd Ditto in the words underneath the Said List—

Lib A  Provinceall & Lands 1646 to 1650
B The same and one Alphbett to both bookes
C Records for Lands from 1649 to 1643
D Entry of Lands from 1650 to 1655
I&K Burles 2 Bookes of Rights from 1649 to 1657
L Lands from 1656 to 1657
P Booke of Rights & Warrants 1660
Q Lands 1658
R Lands 1659
X Lands from 1661 to 1663
AA Lands 1663
CC Lands 1664 & 1665
DD Lands 1665
EE Lands 1665 & 1666
FF Lands 1667
GG Lands 1667 & 1668
HH Lands 1668 & 1669
JJ Lands 1669
RM Lands at the Whorekill 1670
WT Lands 1670 71 72
MM Lands 1672 73 74 75 76 77
LL Lands 1673 74 75 76 77 78
Several Bundles of Certificates
KK Lands 1670
WC Lands 1675 76 77 78 79 80
WC No. 2—Lands 1679 80
D Booke of Instructions
HH Council Book 1656
JJ Council Booke 1670
CB Commissions from the Lord Proprietor
RR Council Booke 1671 to 1673

Conditions of Plantations
You are desired and hereby required to Deliver into the Custody of John Llewelin to be kept at the State house the severall Bookes and Papers in your Office relating to the business of Lands according to the within written List, and what other Bookes and papers you have any waies relating thereunto for which this shall be your Sufficient order from

C: Baltimore

To the Honorable William Calvert Esquire Principall
Secretary of this Province or his Chiefe Clerk these."
The probate court of Maryland for the greater part of the colonial period was called the Prerogative Court. Many of the features of the court, notably the terminology, were borrowed from the English Prerogative Court. Unlike the English court which was ecclesiastical, the Maryland court remained a civil court throughout its existence, although there were several attempts to put it under the control of the Bishop of London. The attempt which came closest to succeeding was made soon after Maryland became a royal colony. At that time, a strong effort was being made to establish the Church of England in the Colony. The attitude of the colonists in the matter of the probate office and toward religion in general was expressed by the members of the Upper House of the Assembly when they unanimously agreed, on October 18, 1694, "That a Suffragan Bishop or Coëmissary Deputed by & invested with such Ecclesiastical Authority & power by the Right Reverend Father in God The Rt Honorable the Lord Bishop of London as to his wisdom shall seem most Expedient for the Better setting & Regulating all matters relating to Churches and Churchmen which are or shall be Established by God Almighty's providence & his paternall care in this province will be most convenient & Necessary, But wee doe further represent unto the said Burgesses of Assembly That the Coëmissary's office in the Nature of it & by the Just & Honest profits & advantages accruing unto it is a most suitable Employment and a Valuable Encouragement for such Suffragan Bishop or Coëmissary so to be Deputed by his Lsp: without any charge to be laid upon this province.

"First because that Office being Judiciall & of great importance & Trust in this province in quieting & securing to the Right owners all Estates of persons Dying Testate or Intestate & for preserving the fortunes of all the Orphans of Maryland cannot well be Executed but by a person of Integrity and Capacity residing among us. And Secondly that being a Judiciall office of an Ecclesiastical nature it ought to be performed by a person Qualified by his knowledge in the Civill Law and may also properly appertain to the same person if he shall have taken any degrees in the Study of Divinity."

1 Arch. Md., XIX, 92
Two years later, the Assembly passed a law bestowing the office of Commissary General upon the "Divine or Commissary" expected from the Bishop of London. The law required the Governor upon the arrival here and application by the "said Divine" to grant and confirm the office to him. It was stipulated, however, that he must be a resident of the Province and not exercise the office by deputy or representative. On October 3, 1698, the Bishop of London issued a commission to Thomas Bray, D.D., as Commissary for the Province of Maryland. Eventually the long-awaited Commissary did arrive. On May 4, 1700, Dr. Bray appeared before the Governor and Council in support of Edward Dorsey's petition for the remission of a fine. But on June 27, 1700, the Governor announced to his council that Dr. Bray having gone to England he, the Governor, had conferred the Commissary's Office upon Thomas Brooke, one of the Council. At the same time, he asserted he was willing that upon the return of Bray or "any other qualified person sent in by the right Reverend the Lord Bishop of London" he "should enjoy that office." Bray does not appear in the records of the Prerogative Court at all, probably because he confined his attention to strictly religious problems and did not apply for the office of Commissary General as required by the law of 1696. In any case neither Bray nor any other Commissary returned to take advantage of the Governor's offer.

ORIGIN AND EARLY DEVELOPMENT OF THE PREROGATIVE COURT

The Prerogative Court did not spring into existence, a full-fledged court. Like the other institutions of the Province, it was the product of a gradual evolution, influenced by the customs of the home country and the needs of the new. Its origin can be traced back to the Charter granted to Lord Baltimore in 1632. In it, he was given complete control over the colony, including authority in religious matters comparable to that of the Bishop of Durham.

This, of course, included control over probate matters. Poor communications made it impractical for the Lord Proprietary to govern the colony from England; therefore he found it necessary to appoint a deputy to govern the colony and look after his interests in it. The commission he issued to his brother, Leonard Calvert, on April 15, 1637, is the earliest such appointment found in the records of the colony. Leonard was named Lieutenant General, as the Governor was then called, and placed in charge of all phases of the government. A Council was named to advise and assist him. John Lewger, one of the members of the Council, was also designated as Secretary of the Province and made responsible for the keeping and recording of the acts and proceedings of the Lieutenant General and his Council. On January 20, 1637[8], the Governor issued a commission assigning additional duties to Lewger. Besides being named "Conservator of the Peace within the County of St. Mary's", Lewger was also appointed Commissioner "in causes testamentary, to prove the last wills and testaments of persons deceased, and to grant admiraon of the estates of persons dying intestate within our said Province and to take inventories and accounts and the same to record, and to give discharges thereupon; and to minister an oath to any person or persons witness or witnesses executors or administrators as often as there shall be cause.""9

A few years later, on August 12, 1641, "An Act For Causes Testamentary" was passed. It provided the "Lieutenant General or in his absence his Deputie or otherwise the first Counsellour resident in the County shall prove Wills and Grant Administracions & exercise all Temporal jurisdictions to Testamentary causes appertaining". He was to proceed "according to the Law & lawable usage of England...& where the same is uncertain or doubtful then according to equity & good conscience."10 In practice, Secretary Lewger continued to do most of the work. On September 5, 1642, when Calvert renewed Lewger's commission as Secretary of the

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2 Ibid., XXXIX, 92.
3 Ibid., XXIV, 31.
4 Ibid., XXI, 22.
5 Ibid., XXV, 95.
6 For a more thorough discussion of the religious aspects of the office of commissary general and of the efforts to place it under the control of the church, see Edith E. MacQueen, "The Commissary in Colonial Maryland" (Md. Hist. Mag., XXV, 190-206).
7 Arch. Md., III, 49.
8 Long after Catholic Europe had adopted the Gregorian calendar which we now use, England retained the Julian calendar, refusing to change until 1752. In this calendar, the year started on March 25, the period from January 1 through March 24 being considered part of the previous year. In order to bring dates falling within this period into proper perspective, the year according to the Gregorian calendar has been inserted in brackets after such dates.
9 Arch. Md., III, 60.
10 Ibid., I, 108.
Province, he also made him "Judge of all Causes Testamentary & Matrimonial." The linking of probate and matrimonial matters was obviously influenced by the practice in England.

In spite of the confusion created by Ingle's Rebellion and the seizure of the government by the Parliamentary Commissioners, it appears that the person occupying the position of Secretary of the Province continued to have jurisdiction over probate matters until 1673. Every Secretary's commission found in the records of the Province before then includes this responsibility. However, some of the governors took an active interest in the office. Philip and Charles Calvert, especially, are often mentioned in the records as having proved a will, granted letters of administration or performed some similar duty.

Although the chief officer for probate matters had been called a judge as early as 1642, he did not begin to preside over a court until much later. The first style of court appeared in the records on July 30, 1670 while William Calvert was Secretary. About the same time, the Court began to try libels, issue citations, and perform other duties of a judicial nature. But it was not until Sir William Talbot became Secretary that the Prerogative Court may be said to have been formally established. His commission, which was issued by Lord Baltimore on August 7, 1670, included the usual powers of a Secretary. In addition he was given "full Power and Authority to issue out Commissions and process in our name and to hear Sentence and declare all matters touching wills Administrations and Inventories and also the Incidents Emergencies and dependencies thereupon and to make and appoint Registers & other Officers in relation to the Probate of wills and Granting of Administrations in all Counties and places within our said Province." It was on May 19, 1671, during his term of office that the name, "Prerogative Court," was used in the records of the Court for the first time.

**COMMISSARY GENERAL**

Talbot was the last Secretary to have jurisdiction in probate matters. When Philip Calvert received a commission as Chancellor and "Judge or Commissary General for Probate of wills" on November 29, 1672, the office was divorced from that of the Secretary forever. Calvert apparently did not like the term "Prerogative Court," because from the time he was sworn in on April 24, 1673 until his death in 1682, it was never used in the records of the Court. A few years after his death, the term reappeared in the records and was used continuously until the end of the Court. Col. Henry Darnall and Col. William Digges succeeded Philip Calvert, both in his capacity as Commissary General and as Chancellor. But with the appointment of Senelm Cheseldin, in 1693, the Commissary General became established as an officer in his own right. In a few years, the office became one of the most lucrative in the Colony and was eagerly sought after. It was not unusual for two or three men to hold the office together and in 1722 four judges were named in the same commission. Usually, however, only one judge was appointed. The duties of the Commissary General were similar to those of the Secretary in so far as he had been concerned with probate matters. But as time passed the Commissaries tended to confine their attention mainly to the hearing of disputes and to leave the ordinary probate work of the Court to the Chief Clerk and Register.

**CHIEF CLERK AND REGISTER**

The office of Chief Clerk and Register of the Prerogative Court appears to have had its origin in the office of "Clerke of the Secretaries Office and the provincial Courts." The first such clerk to appear in the records of the Province is William Bretton, who was serving in this capacity as early as 1647.
He may have been preceded by other clerks, but the commissions of the early clerks were not often recorded and it is difficult to trace them. The commission issued by Governor Charles Calvert to John Blomfield on May 5, 1669, as "Chief Clerk of the Secretaries Office of the Provincial Court and Council and of the Custody and keeping of the lesser Seal Records" was the first such commission to be recorded. The accompanying instructions empowered him to sign letters of administration, probate wills and sign warrants to appraisers.20

After the offices of Secretary and Commissary General were separated in 1673, each officer had his own clerk or clerks. As long as Philip Calvert was Commissary General, his clerk did little more than record the proceedings of the Court and the instruments filed with it. But after Calvert's death, the duties of the clerk increased steadily and he was frequently referred to as the Register of the Prerogative Court. For example, in 1685 the proceedings of the Court reveal that James Cullen was appointed by the Judges to be Register of this Court & Clerke of the Office for probat of wills... 21 The title varied considerably in subsequent appointments, but the version most commonly used was "Chief Clerk and Register of the Prerogative Court".

By 1700, the Register had acquired a deputy and was performing most of the routine work of the Court. The commissaries or judges held court at least every two months. While in session, they heard disputes and reviewed the work done by the Register since the last session. A typical court term, as found in the proceedings of the Prerogative Court, began with the style of court which gave the date, place and names of the commissaries present. This was followed by court orders, citations, attachments, etc. Then the docket of cases was heard and decided or continued as in any other court. Finally, the judges passed on accounts which had been allowed by the Register and adjourned until the next term. Between terms of court it is evident that the Prerogative Office remained open continuously, for there are almost daily entries in the proceedings. The entries consist largely of returns of the Deputy Commissaries for the various counties, but there are also entries regarding instruments which were brought directly to the office.

20 Ibid., V, 49-52.
21 Testamentary Proceedings 13, 197.

LEGAL BACKGROUND OF THE PREROGATIVE COURT

Throughout the colonial period the General Assembly frequently concerned itself with probate matters, especially the protection of orphans' estates. In 1681, an Act entitled "An act for the better Administracon of Justice in probate of Wills, granting Administratocon of Recovery of Legacy & securing fillial porcions" was passed.22 This Act may well be called the basic law of the Prerogative Court; for, with one important exception, none of the laws passed subsequently made any great change either in the organization or procedure of the Court. It required the Judge or Commissary General to "hold his court once in Two Months at the Least or oftener as the Case shall Requier." He was to proceed in all testamentary causes according to the Laws of England if pleaded before him except "in such cases as shall in this Act be Limited or shall hereafter bee Limited by Act of Assembly of this Province, as utterly impracticable in this Province." It was made lawful for the Judge to prove "any Last Will in this Province even though itt Concerne Title to Land or any Law useage or Custome of the Kingdome of England to the Contrary Notwithstanding." Executors and administrators were to account for the estate within twelve months after administration was commenced. The care of orphans' estates and choice of guardians was left to the county courts, but very elaborate and detailed regulations were prescribed by the law; the theory being that local authorities, being better acquainted with the individuals concerned and in the same locality where the estate was, could do a better job of protecting the interests of the orphans. Finally the right of appeal from the decision of the Commissary General which had been established in the commission issued to Philip Calvert in 1672 was confirmed, provided that the appellant enter his appeal before the Commissary within 15 days of the sentence and within 15 more days petition the Lord Proprietary or his Lieutenant to examine or appoint someone to examine the sentence of the Commissary. This law was renewed by acts passed in 1692,23 1699,24 and 171525 which contained substantially the same provisions, but did vary in detail.

23 Ibid., XIII, 480.
24 Ibid., XXII, 233.
25 Ibid., XXX, 331.
DEPUTY COMMISSARY

The only significant change in the Prerogative Court after the passage of the above law was the establishment of the office of Deputy Commissary. The difficulties of travel in the newly settled colony imposed a severe hardship on the executors or administrators of estates located at any distance from the capital of the Province. Very early in the history of the probate office, it became customary to issue a special warrant or commission to some reliable person, quite often a justice of the county court, authorizing him to perform a specific duty in a specific case. For example, in 1642, a commission was issued to George Binks empowering him to administer the oath of appraisers to Thomas Greene and Nathan Pope who had been appointed appraisers of the estate of John Cockshott.\(^{26}\) Commissions were also issued authorizing persons to probate wills and swear administrators. None of these commissions were of a general nature. By 1692, the number of commissions being issued had increased to such an extent that the Commissary General was authorized by law to “appoint some able and sufficient person of good repute and a freeholder in every respective County in this Province, to take the probate of any last will or Testament.” He was also to grant letters of administration and letters testamentary and swear administrators and appraisers. If any dispute arose, it was to be decided by the Commissary General.\(^{27}\) As a result of this act, a commission to a Deputy Commissary or Agent for each county was issued on August 9, 1692.\(^{28}\) As time passed, the powers of the Deputy Commissaries tended to increase. The law of 1715 even authorized them to allow the accounts of estates valued at less than 50 pounds sterling, provided there was no controversy. Where an estate exceeded 50 pounds, the Commissary General often reverted to the early practice of issuing a special commission allowing the Deputy Commissary to pass the account.

When a will, inventory or account was brought into the office of a Deputy Commissary, he took whatever action was necessary and recorded the instrument in his own books. Periodically he would send or deliver the papers filed in his office and a return of his proceedings in each case to the Prerogative Office, where the wills, inventories and accounts were again recorded and the returns of pro-

HISTORY OF THE RECORDS OF THE PREROGATIVE COURT

The Constitution of 1776 provided for the appointment of a Register of Wills in each county and thus by implication abolished the Prerogative Court. Chapter 8 of the Laws of April 1777 carried out the intent of the Constitution by abolishing the Court and providing for the appointment of an Orphans’ Court and a Register of Wills in each county to replace it.\(^{31}\) The records of the Deputy Commissaries were passed on to the Registers of Wills. The records of the Prerogative Court were placed in the care and custody of the Register of Wills for Prince George’s County. Annapolis being the provincial capital and one of the most important cities in the colonies, it was deemed safer to deposit the records elsewhere while the War lasted. But a few months later, Elie Vallette, Register of Wills for Anne Arundel County and previously Register of the Pre-

\(^{26}\) Ibid., IV, 72.
\(^{27}\) Ibid., XIII, 430.
\(^{28}\) Testaceous Proceedings 14A. 3

\(^{29}\) In 1705, Humphrey Hubbard, Deputy Commissary of Dorchester County was carrying certain wills, inventories, accounts and other papers across the bay to the Commissary General’s Office when his boat caught fire and sank, causing the papers to be lost. Fortunately, they had been copied into the Deputy Commissary’s records before he left. A law was passed providing that copies of the lost papers taken from Hubbard’s books be recorded in the Commissary General’s Office. The law further provided that the copies be accepted as originals for all practical purposes. The copies were recorded in full in Testaceous Proceedings 196, pages 150-176.

\(^{30}\) There were only two exceptions to this custom. John Beale and Michael McMahon served as Deputy Commissaries for Anne Arundel County during the period, 1719-1744, when the position of Register was occupied by other men.

\(^{31}\) Hall of Records, Catalogue of Archival Material, p. 123.
The Prerogative Court for the last thirteen years of its existence, submitted a memorial to the General Assembly. After stressing his own familiarity with the records and pointing out that the considerable unfinished business of the Court necessitated frequent reference to the records, he requested that they be returned to his custody. Accordingly, an act was passed requiring him to remove the records of the Court from Upper Marlboro to some safe place in Anne Arundel County at least nine miles from Annapolis. He was ordered to hire a room in which to house them and to keep them stored in chests or trunks so that they might readily be moved if the Governor and Council so ordered. Since Vallette was so anxious to obtain the records, it seems reasonable to assume that he fulfilled the requirements of the law although no clue as to the location of the storage place can be found. In any case, on November 27, 1778, the Governor and Council ordered "that all the Books and Papers belonging to the Commissaries Office, be removed to the City of Annapolis under the care of the Register of Wills for Anne Arundel County," whose office at that time was located in the State House.

A few months later, in March 1779, a law was passed ordering that the Prerogative Court Papers dating from 1760 and belonging to estates which had not been finally settled be sorted and packed and delivered to the several Registers of Wills. The rest of the papers were similarly distributed in 1783 when the officer having custody of them was ordered to record all unrecorded original papers and sort out, list and pack all original papers for each county. Then he was to notify the Registers to send for them. As a result, the original papers of the Prerogative Court have since then been located in the offices of the Registers of Wills for the various counties.

The volumes had meanwhile remained in the custody of the Register of Wills for Anne Arundel County. In 1823, a resolution of the General Assembly authorized him to remove the records to his "fireproof office in the courthouse of Anne Arundel County." There the records remained until 1904, when the Register was directed by law to deliver all the records and indexes of the Prerogative Court to the Commissioner of the Land Office, who had recently moved into his quarters in the new Court of Appeals building. In June 1935, the Commissioner of the Land Office moved into the newly-erected Hall of Records building taking the records with him. A few months later, in December 1935, he transferred the Prerogative Court records to the custody of the Hall of Records Commission, where they now remain.

**EFFORTS FOR THE PRESERVATION OF THE RECORDS**

With the possible exception of the land records, no set of Maryland records had received more attention than those of the Prerogative Court. Since adequate repair facilities were not developed until very recently, earlier efforts toward preservation of the records consisted mainly of transcribing damaged pages or whole volumes and replacing worn bindings. As early as 1716, the General Assembly passed a law appointing several commissioners to examine and have repaired the records of the Province. By virtue of this law, a good many of the records in the Commissary General's Office were rebound or given other attention. In a number of instances, two or more of the old liberis were bound together, probably in the interest of economy. A committee of both houses of the Assembly was appointed in 1728 to inspect the work done by the commissioners. The report of the committee listing the volumes repaired and showing what was done to them was entered in the proceedings of the Lower House.

Another extensive repair project was carried out in 1834, when the General Assembly authorized the Register of Wills for Anne Arundel County to have transcribed and rebound any of the provincial records in his office. A similar law was passed in 1874 authorizing further repair work on the Prerogative Court records. Soon after the records were transferred to the Land Office, the legislature appropriated $6,000 for the restoration of State records. As a result of this law, the entire set of Prerogative Court records was rebound, each series in a distinctive color. In addition, four...
volumes of wills were transcribed in full. In 1912, the Land Office purchased a Photostat camera and adopted the policy of withdrawing from circulation original volumes which had begun to deteriorate and replacing them with bound photostat copies. A number of volumes were so treated. But since 1935 when the records were transferred to the Hall of Records, it has been possible to send the original itself to a well-equipped repair department for such treatment as is deemed necessary. Ordinarily, the whole volume is repaired and rebound. A list of the volumes repaired is published in the annual reports of the Archivist.

In the course of all this repair and rebinding, the original arrangement of the records has been considerably disrupted. Moreover the system used for identifying the individual liber has also been changed, partly because many of the liber had lost their identity by being combined with other liber. Before the present system of numbered series was adopted, letters of the alphabet, numbers and initials of the commissaries general or of the registers had all been used at various times to identify the liber. In the lists below the old liber will be given immediately after the present liber number. The original liber numbers or letters are still found on the flyleaves or elsewhere in many of the volumes. Otherwise they have been determined by referring to lists of the records made in 1673, 1687, 1691, and 1776 and to the report of the committee of 1728. The lists below will also indicate the existence of handwritten or photostat copies, except in the case of the Proprietary Records which have already been fully analyzed in the "Calendar of State Archives" published in Volume I of the Archives of Maryland. Unless a definite statement is made to the contrary, the volume listed is the original.

**PROPRIETARY RECORDS**

*Proprietary Records* is an artificial title which is ordinarily used to identify the earliest records of the colony. They are general record books covering all sorts of proceedings of the provincial government, especially records of the Provincial Court. None of

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44 Testamentary Proceedings 13, 477.
45 Ibid., 18, flyleaf.

the volumes except *Liber Z* is ever found in the early lists of probate records, nor do any of the others contain much probate material. However, they are the only source now existing of such material for the period, 1643-1657, and therefore, have been included in the list below. Even as early as 1673 when a list of records relating to testamentary business was made, there were no volume records for the period in question. The list did include seventeen bundles of original papers. Perhaps it had not been considered necessary to record the papers.

**Proprietary Record Liber Z**, probably the same as the volume called, "G Book of Administrations 1636-1640" in the 1673 list cited above. In later lists it is called "No. 1" and dated from 1637 to 1640. The period actually covered by the volume is December 30, 1637-October 21, 1642 plus several entries dated as late as July 20, 1644, but the erratic chronology of the book and the fact that the last entry is dated 1640 might easily have misled the clerks making the lists. The volume is divided into two parts with several sub-sections in the second part. The pages having been renumbered, both the new and the old page numbers will be indicated in the chart below:

**Part 1**


**Part 2**

- p. 86, plus 2 pages not numbered, no old page numbers, contains an index to the section following (p. 87-111).
- p. 92, blank.
- p. 112, blank.
- p. 113, old p. 59, blank.
- p. 114, contains an index to the inventories below.

47 See note 43.
p. 115-147, old p. 61-90 (p. 127 is blank, pages facing old p. 87, 88, 89 were not numbered originally), contains "Inventories," 1638-1642. 48
p. 148, blank.
p. 149, old p. 119, blank.
p. 150, contains an index to the accounts below.
p. 151-164, old p. 121-134, contains "Acconts", 1638-1642. 49

Proprietary Record Liber P. R., originally known as Liber E, p. 5-200 (p. 14 missing), contains mostly records of the Provincial Court, but also has some Council and Assembly proceedings; the only testamentary proceedings are several entries regarding the issuing of letters of administration, Aug. 2, 1642-Feb. 12, 1644[5].

Proprietary Record Liber A, p. 59-359 (except that the leaves containing p. 123-124, 149-150, 277-278, 283-284 are missing; p. 37-58 were present in 1725 when entries from them were transcribed into Patent Record Liber No. 2; the leaves containing p. 396, which completes the volume, and p. 397, which is part of the index, has been bound into Liber Z above), contents similar to volume above, but there are more entries relating to probate matters, May 2, 1647-Mar. 8, 1650[1].

Proprietary Record Liber B, original missing, but practically all of it was copied by the Commissioners of 1716 as follows:

48 The entries are not in chronological order, but all of them fall within the dates given.
49 See note 48.

In the Preface and in the Notes of Volume IV of the Archives of Maryland, the editors indicate a belief that the pages missing in front were removed by Ingle. However, in a list of the pages missing from the records which were moved from St. Mary's City to Annapolis (Annapolis) in 1694, no mention is made of pages missing in the beginning of the volume although pages 123-124, 277-278 and 283-284 are listed as missing (Arch. Md., XIX, 131). It is inconceivable that the absence of some fifty odd pages in the beginning of the book would have been ignored when the lack of single leaves in the middle of the volume was detected.

The contents of this volume are similar to the one above, but there almost no testamentary entries at all, possibly because such entries were deliberately omitted when the volume was transcribed. The dates are roughly January 1651 to March 1658.

Provincial Court Record Liber S, p. 1-1144, 1157-1158 (pages are incorrectly numbered, but there appear to be no breaks in the text except at the end). Mar. 25, 1658-Jan. 28, 1662[3]. This volume is not generally considered one of the Proprietary Records, but since it contains similar material and is obviously a continuation of Liber B, it has been included here. Probate entries are found only in the first part of the book, dating from March to August, 1658 with two or three entries dated later. In August 1658, a separate series was established for recording such entries. (See Testamentary Proceedings 1B).

TESTAMENTARY PROCEEDINGS

Beginning in 1658, the proceedings of the Secretary in probate matters and the proceedings of the Prerogative Court were entered in the series called Testamentary Proceedings. As it is now constituted, the series dates from 1657 to 1777. It will be seen in the list below that Testamentary Proceedings 1A, 1657, contains a variety of material and is similar to the Proprietary Records. But the rest of the volumes are devoted exclusively to testamentary matters. The earlier volumes were general record books and included wills, inventories and accounts, as well as the proceedings of the Court. In 1674, a separate volume was used for recording inventories and accounts and in 1676, the wills were likewise separated. The series is composed of volumes 1 to 47 running in chronological order.

Testamentary Proceedings 1, composed of the following small volumes which were bound together by the Commissioners of 1716:
1A, Liber P. C. or No. 2, p. 1-12, contains records similar to those in the Proprietary Records above, including land records, cattle marks, 2 wills, 1 inventory and miscellaneous testamentary entries, dates are erratic, but apparently all the entries were made in 1657.
1B, is made up of two small volumes which as early as 1687 had been combined into a single volume called "No. 3". The original volumes were as follows:
WILLS

The practice of recording wills in separate volumes was begun in 1676. However, the present Wills series dates from 1635 to 1777, because the first two volumes are compilations of wills transcribed from various sources. The old liber letters are marked on the spines of the volumes, but the volumes are now designated as Liber 1 to 41 plus one volume called Liber 2A. Libers 12 to 41 run in chronological order, but the chronology of the earlier libers is extremely erratic. Several of the libers have been divided into two volumes, while libers 8, 9 and 10 have been combined into single volume. In all there are 46 volumes in the series.

Wills 1, a compilation of wills extracted from various originals. It was made in 1725 by the Commissioners of 1716. Marginal notes indicate the sources from which the wills were copied. A 1908 handwritten copy and a photostat copy also exist. The chart below will indicate the page number, old reference, new reference and the dates of the wills:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Page</th>
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<tr>
<td>1-9</td>
<td>Liber Z</td>
<td>Prop. Record Liber Z</td>
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<td>9-27</td>
<td>Liber A</td>
<td>Prop. Record Liber A</td>
<td>1647-1651</td>
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<td>28-67</td>
<td>Liber B</td>
<td>Prop. Record Liber B</td>
<td>1651-1657</td>
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<td>67-69</td>
<td>Liber PC No. 2</td>
<td>Test. Proc. 1A</td>
<td>1657</td>
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<tr>
<td>69-114</td>
<td>Liber No. 3</td>
<td>Test. Proc. 1B</td>
<td>1658-1659</td>
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<tr>
<td>114-154</td>
<td>Liber M No. 4</td>
<td>Test. Proc. 1C</td>
<td>1660-1662</td>
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<td>154-201</td>
<td>Liber No. 5</td>
<td>Test. Proc. 1D</td>
<td>1662-1663</td>
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<td>202-222</td>
<td>Liber No. 6</td>
<td>Test. Proc. 1E</td>
<td>1664-1665</td>
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<td>223-260</td>
<td>Liber No. 7</td>
<td>Test. Proc. 1F</td>
<td>1665-1666</td>
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<tr>
<td>260-321</td>
<td>Liber H No. 8</td>
<td>Test. Proc. 2</td>
<td>1666-1668</td>
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<tr>
<td>321-376</td>
<td>Liber HH No. 9</td>
<td>Test. Proc. 3</td>
<td>1668-1669</td>
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<tr>
<td>376-417</td>
<td>Liber No. a</td>
<td>Wills</td>
<td>1670-1671</td>
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<tr>
<td>417-553</td>
<td>Liber No. b</td>
<td>Test. Proc. 5</td>
<td>1670-1673</td>
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<tr>
<td>553-639</td>
<td>Liber PC No. c</td>
<td>Test. Proc. 6</td>
<td>1673-1674</td>
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Wills 2A, a four volumes bound together by the Commissioners of 1716. All of it is transcribed in Wills 2.

<table>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Liber D</td>
<td>p. 1-90</td>
<td>1680</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Liber E</td>
<td>p. 1-65</td>
<td>1681</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Liber F</td>
<td>p. 1-50</td>
<td>1682</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Liber KC No. 1</td>
<td>p. 1-146</td>
<td>1693-1694</td>
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</table>

Wills 2, also a compilation of wills made in 1726 by the Commissioners of 1716. A photostat copy also exists.

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<td>1-81</td>
<td>Liber PC No. C</td>
<td>Test. Proc. 6</td>
<td>1674-1675</td>
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<td>82-127</td>
<td>Liber No. 20</td>
<td>Wills 2A</td>
<td>1680</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>or No. D</td>
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<tr>
<td>127-178</td>
<td>Liber No. E</td>
<td>Wills 2A</td>
<td>1681</td>
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<td>179-202</td>
<td>Liber No. F</td>
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of COLONIAL MARYLAND

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<td>Liber HB No. 6</td>
<td>Inv. &amp; Accts. 11</td>
<td>1690-1692</td>
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<td>Wills 2A</td>
<td>1693-1694</td>
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<td>337-345</td>
<td>Liber PC No. 13</td>
<td>Test. Proc. 7</td>
<td>1675</td>
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<td>410</td>
<td>Liber WT anno</td>
<td>Patents No. 17</td>
<td>1677</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>410-411</td>
<td>Liber MM 1673</td>
<td>Patents No. 18</td>
<td>1669</td>
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Wills 4, Liber No. G, p. 1-319, 1682-1688. A copy transcribed under the provisions of Chapter 147, 1834. The original cannot be found.


Wills 6, composed of several volumes of scattered dates:

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<td>1-59</td>
<td>Liber H</td>
<td>1688-1689</td>
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<tr>
<td>62-71</td>
<td>Liber</td>
<td>1685-1692, entries not in order</td>
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<td>72-74</td>
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<tr>
<td>75-408</td>
<td>Liber</td>
<td>titled “Wills following K,” 1698-1700</td>
<td>verso p. 1-43, Liber LC, 1692-1693</td>
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Wills 8, 9 & 10, three volumes bound together by the Commissioners of 1716:

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<tr>
<td>8</td>
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<td>p. 1-209, 1670-1671</td>
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<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Liber No. b</td>
<td>p. 1-114, 1678-1679</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Liber No. c</td>
<td>p. 1-87, 1679</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
INVENTORIES AND ACCOUNTS

As has already been indicated, a separate series was established for recording inventories and accounts in 1674. The series continued until 1718. In a number of cases, two or three of the original inventories have been bound into a single volume. These volumes are now arranged chronologically and numbered from 1 to 39. In addition, volume No. 19\(\frac{1}{2}\) has been inserted into the series, making a total of 40 volumes.

Inventories & Accounts 1, Liber No. I, p. 1-595, 1674-1675:
  p. 596-697 contain inventories only 1699-1703.
Inventories & Accounts 4, Liber No. IV, p. 1-635, 1677.
Inventories & Accounts 7, three volumes bound together by Commissioners of 1716:
  7C, Liber IX, p. 1-353, 1682.


Inventories & Accounts 11, Liber HB No. C, two volumes bound together by the Commissioners of 1716:
  11A, p. 1-50 (double pages), contains wills, inventories and administration bonds for Anne Arundel County, 1690-1692.\(^{58}\)
  11B, p. 1-73, 1700.


Inventories & Accounts 13, two volumes bound together by the Commissioners of 1716:


Inventories & Accounts 17, Liber No. 19, p. 1-178, 1698.


Inventories & Accounts 19\(\frac{1}{2}\), Liber No. 57, two volumes bound together by the Commissioners of 1716:
  19\(\frac{1}{2}\)A, p. 1-175, 1699-1700.
  19\(\frac{1}{2}\)B, p. 1-160, 1699-1700.

Inventories & Accounts 20, Liber WT, p. 1-274, 1700-1701.


Inventories & Accounts 29, Liber IC No. 4, p. 1-358, 1707-1708.

\(^{58}\) This liber does not belong in the series, for it is obviously a record of the probate proceedings of the Clerk of the Court for Anne Arundel County during the Protestant Revolution. See note 23.
INVENTORIES

From 1718 until 1777 when the Prerogative Court was abolished, inventories and accounts were recorded in separate volumes. The Inventories series is composed of 126 volumes, numbered in chronological order except for 59 and 60 which have been interchanged.

Inventories 1, Liber TB No. 1, p. 1-540, 1718-1719.
Inventories 3, Liber TB No. 4, p. 1-351, 1719-1720.
   Also a photostat copy.
Inventories 5, Liber TB No. 8, p. 1-156, 1720-1721.
Inventories 6, Liber WH No. 1, p. 1-250, 1721.
Inventories 7, Liber AD No. 3, p. 1-357, 1721-1722.
Inventories 9, Liber BHAD No. 4, p. 1-455, 1722-1724.
Inventories 11, Liber BHA No. 6, p. 1-931, 1725-1727.
Inventories 12, Liber CC No. 7, p. 1-541, 1727.
Inventories 14, Liber EHC No. 9, p. 1-353, 1729.
Inventories 16, Liber CC No. 11, p. 1-731, 1730-1732.
Inventories 17, Liber CC No. 12, p. 1-740, 1732-1734.
Inventories 18, Liber T & D No. 1, p. 1-520, 1734.
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Inventories 23, Liber DD No. 4, p. 1-542, 1737-1739.
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Inventories 27, Liber DD No. 8, p. 1-458, 1742-1743.
Inventories 28, Liber DD No. 9, p. 1-540, 1743-1744.
Inventories 30, Liber DD No. 11, p. 1-448, 1744-1745.
Inventories 31, Liber DD No. 12, p. 1-453, 1745.
Inventories 108, Liber WD No. 16, p. 1435, 1771-1772.
Inventories 109, Liber WD No. 17, p. 1436, 1772.
Inventories 110, Liber WD No. 18, p. 1437, 1772-1773.
Inventories 111, Liber WD No. 19, p. 1435, 1772-1773.
Inventories 112, Liber WD No. 20, p. 1432, 1772-1773.
Inventories 113, Liber WF No. 1, p. 1435, 1773.
Inventories 114, Liber WF No. 2, p. 1437, 1773-1774.
Inventories 115, Liber WF No. 3, p. 1437, 1773-1774.
Inventories 116, Liber WF No. 4, p. 1435, 1773.
Inventories 117, Liber WF No. 5, p. 1503, 1774.
Inventories 118, Liber WF No. 6, p. 1433, 1774.
Inventories 119, Liber WF No. 7, p. 1433, 1774-1775.
Inventories 120, Liber WF No. 8, p. 1428, 1774-1775.
Inventories 121, Liber WF No. 9, p. 1429, 1774-1775.
Inventories 122, Liber WF No. 10, p. 1435, 1775-1776.
Inventories 123, Liber WF No. 11, p. 1426, 1775-1776.
Inventories 124, Liber WF No. 12, p. 1438, 1776.
Inventories 125, Liber WF No. 13, p. 1426, 1776.
Inventories 126, p. 185, 1777.

ACCOUNTS

As has been indicated above, the Accounts series branched off from the Inventories and Accounts in 1718. The series runs to 1777. It is composed of 74 volumes numbered in chronological order.

Accounts 1, Liber TB No. 2, p. 1446, 1718-1719.
Accounts 2, Liber TB No. 4, p. 1531, 1719-1720.
Accounts 3, Liber TB No. 6, p. 1533, 1720-1721.

Also a photostat copy.

Accounts 4, Liber AD No. 1, p. 1344, 1721-1724.
Accounts 6, Liber BH AD No. 3, p. 1441, 1724-1725.
Accounts 7, Liber BHA No. 4, p. 1538, 1725-1726.
Accounts 8, Liber BHA No. 5, p. 1561, 1726-1728.
Accounts 9, Liber EH No. 6, p. 1496, 1728-1729.
Accounts 10, Liber EHC No. 7, p. 1721, 1729-1731.
Accounts 11, Liber CC No. 8, p. 1733, 1731-1733.
Accounts 12, Liber CC No. 9, p. 1770, 1733-1735.
Accounts 13, Liber DD No. 1, p. 1356, 1735.

Accounts 14, Liber DD No. 2, p. 1268, 1735-1736; p. 268-543 contain accounts for 1737 beginning where No. 16 ends.

Accounts 16, Liber DD No. 4, p. 1355, 1737-1738.
Accounts 17, Liber DD No. 5, p. 1341, 1738-1740.
Accounts 18, Liber DD No. 6, p. 1340, 1740-1742.

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Accounts 20, Liber DD No. 8, p. 1546, 1743-1744.
Accounts 21, Liber DD No. 9, p. 1449, 1744-1745.
Accounts 22, Liber DD No. 10, p. 1451, 1745-1746.
Accounts 23, Liber DD No. 11, p. 1349, 1746-1747.
Accounts 24, Liber DD No. 12, p. 1322, 1747-1748.

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Accounts 28, Liber DD No. 16, p. 1352, 1750.
Accounts 29, Liber DD No. 17, p. 1242, 1750-1751.
Accounts 30, Liber DD No. 18, p. 1257, 1751.
Accounts 31, Liber DD No. 19, p. 1256, 1751.
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Accounts 35, Liber DD No. 23, p. 1333, 1753.
Accounts 36, Liber BT No. 1, p. 1547, 1753-1754.
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Accounts 39, Liber BT No. 2, p. 1272, 1755-1756.
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Accounts 41, Liber BT No. 4, p. 1546, 1757-1758.

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Accounts 50, Liber SB No. 4, p. 1-370, 1763-1764.
Accounts 51, Liber SB No. 5, p. 1-402, 1764.
Accounts 52, Liber CG No. 1, p. 1-348, 1764-1765.
Accounts 55, Liber CG No. 4, p. 1-363, 1766-1767.
Accounts 60, Liber WD No. 4, p. 1-430, 1768-1769.
Accounts 64, Liber WD No. 8, p. 1-341, 1770.
Accounts 65, Liber WD No. 9, p. 1-341, 1770-1771.
Accounts 72, Liber WF No. 4, p. 1-432, 1774-1777.
Accounts 73, Liber WF No. 5, p. 1-435, 1774-1776.
Accounts 74, 1776-1777.

BALANCE BOOKS

In 1751, another series called Balance Books was begun. This series is closely related to the Accounts. It shows how the balance remaining in the estate after all necessary payments had been made was distributed to the heirs or representatives. The series covers the period, 1751-1776 and contains seven volumes numbered in chronological order.


ORIGINAL PAPERS

When the Register of Wills for Anne Arundel County distributed the original papers of the Prerogative Court to the various counties in 1779 and 1783, he naturally retained the papers relating to Anne Arundel in his own custody. He also retained various other papers which belonged to the Prerogative Court proper. By the time these papers were transferred to the Land Office, they were regarded as a single collection. The distinction between the two types of papers had been forgotten or was no longer considered important. The papers are now divided on a different basis. One group contains wills only and is called Original Wills. They are arranged alphabetically and the wills filed under each letter are numbered from one to the end. All the other papers have been grouped together under the heading Testamentary Papers. They include administration bonds, inventories, accounts, libels, summons, commissions, deputy commissaries' returns, etc. The papers are arranged chronologically except that all the papers relating to an estate are filed together.

Testamentary Papers, 96 boxes, 1659-1777.
Original Wills, 32 boxes, 1666-1777.
EXCEP"1 a general index of wills listed in 1776, there appear to have been no other indexes to the Prerogative Court Records than the self-contained indexes which may still be found in practically all of the volumes. Even that index seems to have disappeared by 1874, for in that year the Register of Wills for Anne Arundel County was authorized to make an index to the will books. This was the only general index until 1894, when $1,500 was appropriated for making indexes to the other series. This amount proved insufficient, particularly since part of it was set aside for rearranging and jacketing the original wills. Therefore, additional sums were appropriated in 1896 and 1898 for completing the job. As a result of this effort, general indexes were provided for all of the Prerogative Court series, except the Testamentary Proceedings. The indexing of this series was also begun and libers 1-26 were completed. No further work was done until the records were turned over to the Land Office.

From 1904 to 1906, the indexing of libers 27-30 was completed by John B. Leech, apparently of his own initiative, for it was not until 1906 when the work had already been finished that the General Assembly appropriated the money to pay him. After a lapse of twenty years, the Commissioner of the Land Office reported in 1926 that the indexing of liber 31 was nearly completed. By 1932, thirteen more volumes had been done. The three libers remaining were indexed before December 1935, for the index was complete when it was transferred to the Hall of Records.

Meanwhile, a card index to wills had been made during the biennium 1922-1924. A new index to accounts was also made, but the typing of the cards had only been partially completed when they were turned over to the Hall of Records.

From 1935 to 1946, the Hall of Records completed the work of transferring the remaining volume indexes to cards, making many corrections. In addition, the Testamentary Papers were arranged and indexed on cards.

The indexes are based on the name of the decedent except the card index to Accounts, which includes the name of the administrator or executor as well, and the index to Testamentary Proceedings, which is an all-name index. The card indexes are filed under two headings: Testamentary Proceedings, which contains only the cards referring to the Testamentary Proceedings series and Testamentary References, which includes all the other cards referring to Prerogative Court Records.

**Index to Testamentary Proceedings**, 1657-1777, 19 volumes and card index.

**Index to Wills**, 1635-1777, 4 volumes (2 sets of 2 volumes each, one set handwritten and the other typed) and card index.

**Index to Inventories and Accounts**, 1674-1718, 2 volumes and card index.

**Index to Inventories**, 1718-1777, 3 volumes and card index.

**Index to Accounts**, 1718-1777, 2 volumes and card index.

**Index to Balance Books**, 1751-1776, 1 volume and card index.

**Index to Original Wills**, 1666-1777, 1 volume and card index.

**Index to Testamentary Papers**, 1639-1777, card index.

**LIST OF COLONIAL PROBATE OFFICERS**

A list of the colonial probate judges and their clerks or registers has been included here, because they are frequently mentioned in the records and it is interesting and useful to know who was serving at a given date and how long he served, especially since the initials of the judges or the registers were often used in the original liber lettering of the individual volumes. As has already been indicated, the officers who had jurisdiction over probate matters during the colonial period were the Secretaries of the Province up to 1673 and the Commissaries General afterwards: Their commissions were consistently recorded: the Secretaries in the proceedings of the Governor and Council and the Commissaries in the proceedings of the Prerogative Court. Occasionally, the Governor assumed the duties of probate judge himself. Whenever this hap-
pened, the name of the Governor, prefixed by his title has been inserted in the list.

The appointments of the clerks or registers were also faithfully recorded after 1685, but before then the appointments were rarely entered in the records. It was necessary to compile the list of the early clerks from the occasional reference to them found in the records. Therefore it would not be surprising if some errors or omissions have occurred.

JUDGES

Secretaries of the Province

John Lewger 1637-1647
Thomas Hatton 1648-1654
William Derand 1654-1656
Richard Preston 1656
Philip Calvert 1656-1660
Henry Coursey 1660-1661
Henry Sewall 1661-1605
Gov. Charles Calvert 1665-1666
Richard Boughton 1666
Gov. Charles Calvert 1660-1669
William Calvert 1669-1670
William Talbot 1670-1671
Gov. Charles Calvert 1671-1673

Commissaries General

Philip Calvert 1673-1682
William Digges and Col. Henry Darnall 1683-1685
Henry Darnall and Clement Hill 1685-1689
(Revolution of 1689, see note 53.)
Gov. Lionel Copley 1692
Nehemiah Blackston 1692-1693
Kenelm Cheseldyn 1693-1699
John Addison, John Courts and Thomas Brooke 1699-1700
Thomas Brooke 1700-1704
Thomas Brooke and William Dent 1704-1705
Thomas Brooke and John Contee 1705-1708

OF COLONIAL MARYLAND

William Bladen 1708-1718
Thomas Bordley 1718-1721
William Holland 1721
William Holland, Thomas Addison and Daniel Dulany 1721-1722
Thomas Brooke, William Holland, Thomas Addison and Daniel Dulany 1722-1724
Thomas Brooke, William Holland and Thomas Addison 1724-1727
William Holland, Philip Lee and Thomas Brooke, Jr. 1727
Charles Calvert 1727-1728
Edward Henry Calvert 1728-1730
Charles Calvert 1730-1734
Benjamin Tasker and Daniel Dulany 1734
Daniel Dulany 1734-1753
Benjamin Tasker 1753-1754
Benjamin Tasker and Daniel Dulany 1754-1758
Daniel Dulany 1759-1761
John Ridout 1761-1762
Stephen Bordley 1762-1764
Charles Goldsborough 1764-1767
Walter Dulany 1767-1773
William Fitzhugh 1773-1777

CLERKS OR REGISTERS

Clerks of the Secretary's Office

William Bretton 1647-1657
Thomas Turner 1657-1658
William Bretton 1658-1660
Peter Bathe 1660-1661
John Gittings 1661-1664
Daniel Jenifer 1664-1668
John Bloomfield 1669-1670
Thomas Cakewood 1670-1671
Robert Ridgely 1671-1673
Clerks and Registers of the Prerogative Court

Michael Rockford 1674-1676
William Stone 1676-1678
William Cornwales 1678-1679
James Boullay 1679
John Thompson 1679-1681
George Butler 1681-1682
Eustachius Turin 1682-1685
James Cullen 1685
William Taylard 1685-1687
James Heath 1687-1688
John Blomfield 1688-1689

(Revolution of 1689, see note 53.)

John Llewelin 1692-1694
John Bouye 1694-1698
Edward Batson 1698-1699
William Bladen 1699-1700
William Taylard 1700-1706
Thomas Bordley 1706-1712
Evan Jones 1712-1713
Benjamin Tasker 1713-1718
John Beard 1718
Philip Hammond 1718-1719
Vachel Denton 1719-1723
George Plater 1723-1729
John Gibson 1729-1736
William Rogers 1736-1749
Richard Dorsey 1749-1752
Michael Macennar 1752-1760
John Davidge 1760-1764
Gideon McCauley 1764
Elie Valette 1764-1777

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No. 13 The County Courthouses and Records of Maryland, Part Two: The Records, by Morris L. Radoff, Gust Skordas and Phebe R. Jacobsen, 1963. $5.00

Lists of records of each county having historical or genealogical interest: judicial, land, probate and administrative. These lists include county records held in the Hall of Records, the county seat, and elsewhere. Illustrated. Index.

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Abstracts of State Papers for the period 1636-1785 with an all-name index.*

No. 2 Catalogue of Archival Material, Hall of Records, 1942. 161 pp. $1.00

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No. 3 Index to the Maryland Line in the Confederate Army, 1861-1865, 1945. 74 pp. $1.00

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- 1782 sale deed of RB III on RB II get

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- [Text partially obscured]
- [Text partially obscured]

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Check list of names of people mentioned
- in records
- No 1 Pub. Creek of MD State Papers
- Deed No 4, Land Office 1775, Court House
- Well of Henry Morgan of Morgan's Neck
- Well of Edward Boyd, a man every owned BP

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>W. H. Heil Hands</th>
<th>Died 1717/1720</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>RB III on RB II</td>
<td>1744</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
- Morgan's St Michael 1658 to St Morgan 300 acre.
- Sarah's Lot at head of Long Tom's Creek, "That may prove
  location of Creek"
- Bedweil, Andrin Neck, now on Wye Island.
- Set early troops on Wye Island, then & now Garmin set
  Long Point.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Court File</th>
<th>Hall &amp; Records</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Peter Sawyer</td>
<td>Aug. 29, 1697</td>
<td>Liber E.M. No. 1 fol. 137</td>
<td>Liber 17 fol. 82</td>
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<tr>
<td>Francis Morgan Sawyer</td>
<td>May 20, 1698</td>
<td>... fol. 152</td>
<td>Box 21, folder 14</td>
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<tr>
<td>Henry Morgan</td>
<td>May 27, 1662</td>
<td>... fol. 53</td>
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<tr>
<td>Philemon Lloyd</td>
<td>May 28</td>
<td>... fol. 88</td>
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<td>Honoria N.B. Lloyd</td>
<td>April 1697</td>
<td>Liber 7 fol. 252-54</td>
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<td>James Hindeman</td>
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<td>Liber 108</td>
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<td>John Loney</td>
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<td>Richard Mavor</td>
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<td>James Heale</td>
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<td>Spokesman Hall</td>
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Bennett Pt - Talb. Co.
1763 Sold Lloyd
54 a 1 b B.C. & E.S. #19 pto 522
"  " B.C. & E.S. #17 21

No Bennett Pt listed QA Co.

Morgan's Neck
1658 Henry Morgan Kent (QA)
300 a Liber Q pto 360
300 a " Q " 360

1738 Rich Bennett & Eliz. his wife QA
400 a Liber E.I. #5 pto 186
400 a " E.I. #6 " 89

Morgan St. Michael's
1658 Henry Morgan Kent (QA)
300 a Liber Q pto 361
300 a " Q " 362
Rich Neck, Treib Co.

Potente & Tracts

300 a. Liber 5 folio 639
          7. 105
          7. 105

1665. Wm. Sheares
  50 a. 1 b. 9. folio 139
  50. 9. 239

1678. Thos. Vaughn
  150 a. 9. 126
  150. 15. 460

1742. Margaret Ward & Matt Tilphman
  577 a. Liber L.G. #E folio 24
  577 a. E.L. #6 577
  certif in name of Matt Tilphman Ward

1760. Matt Tilphman
  207 a. Liber BC+GS #14 folio 404
  207. BC+GS #13 239

1763. Thos. Martin
  22. BC+GS #34 80
  22. BC+GS #29 403

1713. Thos. Martin
  301. Certif 255 W side Dundys Cr 405 12 1713

Rich Neck Field. Matt Tilphman
  207. BC+GS #14 404
  207. BC+GS #13 239
1664. John Alley, & Mich. Barkley = (Liber 5 f. 683)
both placed. Rich N. in Tabb Co. on N side, Choptank R.

Alley & N Barkley = (Liber 7 f. 105)
Mar 12, 1662 same as above.

Alley & Barkley. have due unto them 100c. from James Caines
for Wm. Howard. 100c. for grant.

Mich. Barkley & Sarah his wfe
Dan Jones 300A. = 1664.

1665. Wm. Sheares. 50A. (Liber 9 f. 129)
Tabb Co. N side Choptank R. at hearing the Eastern
no. branch of Treadon clk. adjoining land formerly laid off
to John Edmondson called ye Adjuncion. Nov. 23 1665
50A. Rich NRch. = "laid off for W. Sheares."

Rich NRch. 1664 126.
Thos. Vughin. lyin. Tabb Co. N side Choptank Bay near land
layed off for T.V. called Merchants Folly. I see below some pi.
head of cabbin clk. 50A. called Merchants Folly. 150A.

Merchants Folly Thos. Vughin. E side Choptank Bay respecting Kent at
the N. & near land to Thos. Vughs called Hile End. (Liber 126)

1664 15. 460.
that a warrant for 400G. a grant for Rich. Mar 13, 1664.
all parcel called Rich NRch. Tabb Co. E side Choptank Bay
Hile End.

2G 11 & folio 23.
granted into Peter Jounson Ward. ce. 522G. Rich NRch.
3 side St. R Biw. a peninsula. a week. origin oct 20, 1657.
granted into Philip Land & Henry Fox for 1000A.
on mahonda free settlement in pot coeter part granted to 3 notes:
on original grant 28. 1600 c. called Mitchell's clk. 522G.
26. deficiency of 423 c. occasioned by the washing away the water of
error in the original Survey. Richard Benson, Sept 28, 1741.
(Exh. 6 + 577) - Matt Tynham & Mary T.

Know ye that Margaret Word, relict of Matt T. Ward late of Tab co. - to Matt Tynham, devisor of said MTW. - did set forth that he was possessed of meet a farm called Rich Neck on S side of Riv. - on 10.5 sq. feet of Phil land & 1 Hen. - Fox on Oct 11 1651. 1000 a. - permitted on account there was not so much land (525) - washing g. water - wants spec. warrant to remove - defec. $428 a.

do not say the life -> that part of Matt Tynham -

Canton - Tab Co.
1607 Sam. Harrison
229 1/2 a. Liber IC #2 folio 111
1610 Francis Wright
3 1/2 a. Liber IC #2 123

The Conjunction Tab Co
1668 Robt Bullen & John Jason
50 a Liber 10 fol 485
50 a " 12 164
1745 Robt Gadsbourn
274 a. Liber BY & GS 11 folio 375
274 a. P.T. #2 238
1766 Henry Bunning
206 1/2 a. BCRGS #17 65
1763 Samuel Chamberlain #23 323
279 1/2 a. BCRGS #50 444
1765
Troits in [illegible]

Hops, Plants - Rich Neck - Rich Neck Addit. 9

(9 113) Rich Neck & Rich Neck Addit

will of Samuel Harrison of Talbot Co. 14 June 1829

Copy made for John L. York

1st Day of December in the year of our Lord 1797, I gave to my nephew, Samuel Harrison, my wife, Jane D. Harrison, who now lives with me - for the purpose of improving the land, an annual payment of $100.00 for life. The above land, situated in the County of Talbot, in the State of Maryland, being adjacent to the land of my brother-in-law, James Tilghman, Sr., contains all stock, lands, buildings, and improvements. Upon the death of my nephew, Alexander R. Harrison, all interest shall vest in my son, James Tilghman, Sr.

That part of the lands which is now enclosed, being about 20 acres square, more or less, and has been used as a burial ground, shall remain as the Tilghman family. Also, the tilth of the land shall remain in the Tilghman family. Also, the tilth of the land shall remain in the Tilghman family.

2nd Day, do, Alexander B. Harrison, son of James Tilghman, Sr.

4th Day, do, Joseph Harrison, my nephew, my heir and assigns. The land shall remain in the Tilghman family, which I purchased at Sheriff’s sale for $1,000.00. The land shall remain in the Tilghman family, which I purchased at Sheriff’s sale for $1,000.00.

10th Day, Geo. C. Cookman, $1,000.00, the proceeds of the sale of the land shall be divided among my heirs.

Item, all household furniture, except plate.
2nd Resolved. I make null and void since the death of Joseph, my son. The Farm, plantations, and lands situate in Talbco "near the Roman Chapel, which I purchased as the property and estate of Edward Roberts, deceased. A part of which was once his dwelling place."

May 2, 1836

Meps, Plants, -

Rich Neck -

(2030)

Plat - 20 Acre on Reel's Snake P't

Deed - Reel's Snake P't

1st Cert. - dated Apr. 7, 1862

Reel's Snake P't - Talbco

1863 - John Season

150 a Lib. 5 J dio 5-40

5 5-50
SAYRE Francis 1702 Tabb. Liber 21 folio 343 4
   1703                       23  36  4
   1704                       25  149  4
   1678 E. H. #1 152 4
   169.8 Box 21 folder 14 4
   169.8 Liber 6 folio 167 4

PETER 1697 8 4 17 78 Inventory
   169.7 7 334 will
   169.7 E. H. #1 137 4
   169.7 Box 21 folder 11 4

LONSDAY John 1693 4 12 Liber 12 folio 116 Inventory
   169.5 13 A 300 Account
   169.6 14 68 4
   169.3 2 20 9 4
   169.3 E. H. #1 103 4
   169.3 Box 15 folder 6 4

LOVEL Philemon 1685 4 Lib E. H. 41 88 will
   1734 Q.A. Box 28 folder 11 Admin Board
   1685 Tabb. Lib 4 186 will
   1685 E. H. #1 56 4
   1685 Box 15 folder 8 3 4
   1686 Lib. E. H. #1 53 4
   1686 9 244 Inventory

RICHARD 1774 Q.A. 117 407 4

NEWrenc 1697 Tabb. 15 198 4
   1705 25 1 5 accounts
   1697 4 7 252 will

Bennett & Co. 1725 Kent 6 427 Bees
   1718/20 Q.A. 1 220-29 4
   2 168 4

1676 Q.A. 5 142 Deposit

1749 Q.A. Box 49 folder 19 Test. Paper -
   1746 Q.A. Lib 28 4866 will

1665/6 (Tabb.) Box 3 folder 46

X/ 1665/6 (Tabb.) Box 3 folder 46
<table>
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<tr>
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<td>Jacob</td>
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<td>Talbot&lt;br&gt;Liber 22</td>
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**Assessment 1783 - Annapolis**

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**Probate Records 1777**

| R. 76 | 1787 | Q.A. | Box 8 | folder 32 | Wilson |
Liber 14

The act of Hen. Har. Lloyd ex. of all simp. goods.

The said accountant charged himself with all simp. goods.

Chattels of the deceased.

Specified in an inventory bearing.

The debts at Har. 169 3/4

Amonony do. 82 11 9 1/2

Item: bell's paid 2 4 6

2nd do Thos Smith for bursing the corpse 1

To Dorothy Impay for work done for deceased 11 6

For bringing the corpse from Chester with several shs 5 4

Paid H. Gaskelshor for clue from the dec. 600 12 20

James Smith ad. of Thos Lawrence 7 14

Sam. withers for sher fees 16 60

Paid Capt. Murphy & Law Knowles for error in Mr. Lloyd's acct. 35 5 7

Wm. Henry for fees 27 9

For his hand do my lord Bache 13 20

17 5 2

Brought from other side

To col. Sayers debt sued for & not recovered 12 6 8 4 do

To col. Winstone debt & not recovered & not in that action 5 4 7

For insolvent debts not like to be recovered 

Total: 16 9 3

Above acct was proved by the oath of Hen. Har. Lloyd the ex. of the last will & Test of John Longley dec. to be e. due & just acct

23 Nov. 1696

Signed: P. Gaskelshor

Inventory of John Longley

Liber 12

Inventories & Accou. dated Mar. 2, 169 3/4

Total: 12 10 5

To be: 13 2 20 7 6 11 9
Chas. Blake -

1694. Will. 12th.

1) Whole estate to Mrs. Evis Rousby,
   if no heir, to heir of my father Henry Rousby -
   to pay 100 l. when estate lyeth -

2) Chappel built of lime & brick, 30 l. y. x 20 bread,
   over place where hub. P. Super lies built in.
   I am annexed to chappel second about 14 feet.
   another acre. I give to the other chappel upon my land.
   again just to ye Brown, Doncaster -
   now wit. 10. a. joyed.

I give to Chas. Blake & Rich. Bennett - draw -

Sume to my penny. S./ml. ? clow.
one. Dymond. any -

- - - - - -


1) Do. etc. - audum. Chamber, plate & linen -
4) 3/6. a. Fry. etc. -
5) To Col. etc. Berny, etc. -
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Charles</th>
<th>1724/25/26</th>
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RB will & legal proceedings

Liber 2 - 123-34, Testament proceeding.

Testamentary proceedings

Liber 3, folio 215

1659 16 72 73
1675 17 243 326

Liber 4, folio 216

Kent, 30 458

Barrett 1751, 5.4, 443
S. Y. 13 4

Hernadez, Talb 17, 3, 6, 15, 45, 53, 25, 26, 62

Hernández, AA, 33, 177, part I

Talb 13, 241, 244, 245

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My Court 1771

Rich Archbold  Jas. Town  Jas. Washburn  John Hendricks,  John W. Hocking  
John Taylor  &  John Lowrey  -  Obias  &  Samuel Minch

did not join  col. Rich Tel  bro-

Oct 25 1789
Will of Peter Sayer - dated Aug. 29, 1697  Liber E.T. No. 2, folio 137
Will of Frances Sayer - May 20, 1698  Liber E.T. No. 1, folio 152

Will of Philemon Lloyd - dated May 27, 1662  Liber E.T. No. 1, folio 53

Source: Record - Passano

Sayer: Sayer:较 Familiar of USA, Mackenzie, U1 HHS DAR Libr. 1776 DSt. NW Wash. DC

Bennett: Barlow family Bible rec. Photos. DAR

Ranq Mark m Hd: Johnson U1 DAR, Enoch Pratt (biography)

Bennett, Geo: Rec: M.H.H. V.4, No. 4, p. 307

Bennett, Rich: M.H.H. (1906) V.1, p. 73-75 will q. 1667

Bennett: Somerset Co. Court Book, Tiplman 1937 M. DAR
St. Paul Parish, Baito, V.1, 2, 3, 4 M. HHS
Bennett & Allied Families - Collection to Bullard & allied ones

Solucky Bullard, Detroit, Mich. 1931 (gen)
Baintz genealogy notes: Ms. File Case A., HHS (gen)
Brown-Coehorn - Brooke - Neck - Bennett Chart: File Case HHS
Centreville Recrd., Feb 4, 1893, Newsclip, Clipp HHS
C.H.B. Turner Geneal. Coll. Ms. HHS (gen)
Christ & E. Church Cemetery, Cambridge, Steele. 1936, MHS, DAR
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Cummings Chart: Lib. Cong.: HHS DAR
Dota. Win. N. Quart, 1st Ser. v. 2 p. 29, 157 (incomplete)
Few abs. from will book at Annap. Win. N. Q. 1st Ser. v. 13, p. 27
Founders of A.A. & Howork Co., Westfield, HHS; DAR

Fresh Pond Neck cemetery - "St. Michael's Manor", home of Bennett


Original Recrd. No. 1: 1906 No. 2: 1910 No. 3: 1913
Hamilton family q Charles co. Kelly p.49. HHS
Hist. Graves q Md. & DC. ed. Rudgeley. HHS
Lineage Bks, Nati. Soc.q Davis q Amer. col. V.1 p.314. HHS DAR
Md. families. Collier. Ms. Personal list.
Neele family q Md. The Times, Balto. Sun. Dec. 27, 1885
Scrap Book no.7. HHS
Pennington Papers Ms. HHS (gen)
Rec. q Stepney Parish. HHS. DAR
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Revolutionary war service q Patrick Bennett, Md. Genea. Rec. Comm. 1932-3. DAR
Side lights on Md. Hist. Richardson V.2 p.13 HHS DAR (gen)
Trinity P.2, Church yard, St. Helen's City. Md. O.R. Soc. Bull. no.3 p.55
The Sun, Balto. Oct. 9, 1904 (gen)
Turner Geneal. coll. Ms. HHS
Virginians & Marylanders at Harvard college in 17th c.
Com. Hist. Q. 2nd Ser. V.13, no.1 p.1
Vo. Hist & Dig. V.3 pp.56, 157, 211 (gen)
Wicomico Co. families. Tilghman. Ms. pp. 98, 99, 100, 104, 117, 118, 120 D.A.R
B.B. Brauer pedigree chart. Soc. co. Wars. Md. Johnson. 1905. p.8, 139. HHS
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Md. gleanings in Eng. Wills H.H. Hist. (1905) V.3 no.2
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St. Paul's Parish Rまと. V.2. 3. Ms. HHS
The Sun, Balto. May 22, 1904

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