

ARCHIVAL AND MANUSCRIPT ACCESSIONS

In one way or another, records occasionally escape official custody. Last year, through the courtesy of Mr. J. N. Ewing of Fort Lauderdale, Florida, we received two volumes of records of the Clerk of the Circuit Court of Cecil County that were found in an old log house in Western Pennsylvania. Mr. Ewing states that "The log house in which these books were found was built about 1762. They must have been brought there by some of our ancestors who came from Cecil County, Maryland".

One of these volumes, Land Record Liber F.L. No. 13, 1748-1753, was among the records removed from the Cecil County Courthouse by the British during the Revolution. When recovered the records were so damaged that the justices of the county court were authorized by act of assembly to have them transcribed and the transcripts have served as the official record ever since. The other volume, Criminal Judgment Record, 1733-1741, was never transcribed and is of greater interest in that it is unique.

Other accessions came to us in more routine fashion. A large quantity of records stored in an outbuilding of the Kent County Courthouse was surveyed by our Records Management staff and produced a number of items that had archival value. Some of these items supplemented records already in our custody. For example, the acquisition of the Levy Book for 1744-1757 gives us a continuous run of this important series for nearly a century, 1722-1808. Also of interest are a volume containing Tobacco Inspection Proceedings, 1790-1792, and a number of Poll Books dating from the early nineteenth century, which not only list the names of the persons who voted but also show for whom they voted.

In surveying the records and space requirements of the Register of Wills of Washington County, our Records Management staff recommended that the original records predating 1850 be transferred to the Hall of Records and that the more important series be replaced with microfilm copies. Several of the series actually transferred extend well beyond the cut-off date.

While checking the listing of the records of the Baltimore City Criminal Court prepared for our guide to county records (*The County Courthouses and Records of Maryland, Part Two: The Records*, by Morris L. Radoff, Gust Skordas and Phebe Jacobsen, Annapolis, 1963), we were handed a volume containing Proceedings of the Court of Oyer and Terminer and Gaol Delivery for 1809. Such courts were appointed by special commissions from the Governor to speed up the trial of criminal cases between regular sessions of court.