

LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL

TO THE HONORABLE
THE HALL OF RECORDS COMMISSION
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND

Gentlemen:

I am glad to report that after many years of effort—and of pain—we completed this year the microcopying of the County Land Records of Maryland. With the exception of Baltimore City, which is progressing through the 1920's, we now have a copy of every extant conveyance of real property ever made in Maryland from the beginning of the first counties through 1949. Conveyances after 1949 are microfilmed and deposited at the Land Office in Annapolis as a part of the current business of the County Clerks of Court.

No other state, I think, has all of its county land records in film copy, although work toward this goal is in progress in Delaware, North Carolina, and elsewhere. This project was begun in a quiet era, in order to concentrate research materials in one place for the convenience of the scholar; it was finished to provide security copies of the indispensable records of government in an era of turmoil and insecurity. The completed project will serve both purposes, although the earlier records are not needed in Civil Defense and the later ones are hardly useful to the historian.

We have now turned our attention to the Probate Records of Maryland. The Wills and the Orphans' Court Proceedings had been done in the past by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. Their terminal date was 1850, as it had been in the case of the Land Records. We propose to bring these two series, plus the Inventories and Accounts up to the present and to keep them current in the future. We are also continuing to film church records, and this year, we finished the filming of the Quaker Records in Maryland. Our next publication, scheduled for fiscal year 1965, will be a descriptive catalogue of the records at Homewood (Orthodox) and Stony Run (Hicksite).

I should especially like to call your attention to two publications of this year. The second volume of *The County Courthouses and Records of Maryland*, and the *Court Records of Prince George's County 1696-1699*. The first of these, described in "Publications", earned for the