

Although, we assumed custody of the Land Office records on January 25, 1967, we deferred transferring the records to our building until after the installation of the new air conditioning system was completed. This has delayed the accessioning of the records, but the more important records are listed below along with the other accessions of the year.

The St. Mary's County records listed below were salvaged from two basement rooms in the building which houses the county jail. The water pipes in the shower room above one of the rooms had developed a leak and water had seeped into the room below destroying some records and damaging others. Fortunately, the items that suffered the greatest damage were records of little importance and stationery supplies. However, it is obvious from the list below that severe losses of records have occurred at one time or another, some of which cannot be attributed to the courthouse fire of 1831. For example, none of the proceedings of the County Commissioners predating 1876 are now extant and there are obvious gaps in the assessment records. On the other hand, the Levy Lists are complete from 1798 to 1927, and it is good to know that several volumes of court records containing judgments, minutes and dockets survived the fire of 1831.

Our program for making microfilm security copies of important county records continued apace. A total of 1,503 volumes were filmed last year, of which 808 were Baltimore City Land Records and 620 were records of the Baltimore City Register of Wills. The remainder were mainly marriage records and odd lots of probate records.

Among the church records added to our growing collection last year were those of St. Paul's Parish of Baltimore City and County. The Parish was established in 1693 and is one of the largest Protestant Episcopal parishes in Maryland. The Parish Registers appear to be complete from 1710. A separate volume index covers the entries of births, marriages and deaths recorded in the Registers for the years 1710-1933. Unfortunately, the Vestry Minutes dating prior to 1878 are missing except for the month of June 1777.

The loss of the early records of Calvert County, in the Courthouse fire of 1882, greatly enhances the value of other documentary material predating the fire. This makes the Parish Register of All Saints Parish in Calvert County, 1859-1958, a doubly welcome acquisition.

All except one of the Methodist records received last year came from churches in the Peninsula Annual Conference, which includes the Eastern Shore of Maryland, as well as Delaware and several counties