

In the period from January 25th to June 30th, we granted eleven patents. There were caveat hearings scheduled with notifications to the caveators and caveatees and all other interested parties, then the notification of the inevitable continuances. Since the end of the fiscal year, there have been several hearings and one caveat case has been appealed to the Circuit Court of Prince George's County. This means transcribing the record, listing the exhibits which have been filed, and much more.

We have now finished moving the records of the Land Office to the Hall of Records. We left only the microfilm copies of deeds, mortgages, and releases from 1949 to the present, plats of subdivisions which must be filed by the clerks of many counties, and the documentation for the annexation of contiguous areas by municipalities (Art. 23A, Sec. 19, Annotated Code of Maryland, 1957, 1966 Replacement Volume). We moved the newer records of the Comptroller's Office to the Land Office. Then we transferred the abstracts of deeds, mortgages, and releases to 1949 which we had held in our stacks for the Land Office, to the McKeldin Library of the University of Maryland. It was only because of these complicated transfers and shifts of records that we were able to find space in the Hall of Records for the Patents, Debt Books, Rent Rolls, and other old and valuable records of the Land Office.

Efforts to repossess the Maryland records now in the custody of the Librarian of Congress were continued. At the request of Governor Tawes, five members of our delegation in the House of Representatives introduced Joint Resolutions instructing the Librarian of Congress to release the records to the State of Maryland. Thus far, there have been no hearings on the Resolutions although there was one scheduled for early last fall. At present, The Honorable Clarence D. Long is still interested and active in our behalf. His bill (House Bill 209), is probably the one that will be considered.

In spite of the turmoil, physical as well as spiritual of the year, it was also a year of accomplishment: the number of visitors, the number of postal inquiries, were greater than ever before. There were more receipts, we acquired more records, and we published two books.

Respectfully submitted,

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