

courts merely act as agents in carrying out the necessary procedures) the Clerk was somewhat dubious about his authority to transfer the records. He finally agreed to release them if we would obtain a court order authorizing him to do so. The order was issued and the records were transferred.

Prior to 1851, the Baltimore County Circuit Court handled naturalization business for both City and County. Under the Constitution of 1851, Baltimore City was established as a separate political entity and for fifty-five years thereafter, each of the several City courts was authorized to care for naturalizations. In 1906, the federal law relating to naturalization was revised and the procedures reorganized. The Court of Common Pleas was assigned exclusive jurisdiction over naturalization in Baltimore City and the naturalization records of the other City courts transferred to its custody. All of the naturalization records listed below were received from the Court of Common Pleas and are listed accordingly. However, they have been grouped under the names of the several courts in which they originated.

Rigid controls have been imposed by the federal government on the use of naturalization records. They may be examined by searchers and notes may be made of the information they contain. But they may not be duplicated by photostat, Xerox, microfilm or any other photographic process, except by special order of the court in which they were filed. The obvious purpose of such restrictions is to reduce the possibility of forgery. Persons who require proof of naturalization may obtain certified abstracts, valid for most legal purposes, by writing to the District Director, Immigration and Naturalization Service, 124 Federal Building, 31 Hopkins Place, Baltimore, Maryland 21201.

One of the remarkable events of the past year was the meeting of the Constitutional Convention that was elected to frame a new constitution, which would replace the existing one-hundred-year-old document. After a one-day organizational session which was held on July 11, 1967, the delegates reassembled on September 12, 1967 and met daily until their work was completed. On January 10, 1968, they assembled for the last time to affix their signatures to the constitution they had drafted.

Mr. H. Vernon Eney, President of the Convention, was fully conscious of its historic importance and, from the beginning, made every effort to assure the proper and full documentation of its proceedings and activities. Although he started looking early for a com-