

year 639 volumes were filmed, thereby completing the project to current date. The records of the Register of Wills of Harford County were also added to our microfilm holdings.

With the exception of the records of St. Martin's Lutheran Church of Annapolis, all of the church records acquired last year came from Methodist churches. This was largely due to the excellent cooperation we received from the Reverend Alton Miller, then District Superintendent of the Salisbury District, the Reverend Howard Amoss, District Superintendent of Easton District, the Reverend Edwin Schell, Executive Secretary of the Methodist Historical Society of the Baltimore Annual Conference and Mr. Clinton Brown, President of the Peninsula Conference Historical Society, not to mention the persistent efforts of Mrs. Phebe Jacobsen, who is in charge of our church records program.

The earliest record received begins in 1826, not very early by Maryland standards, but it will be observed that many of the records listed below fall within the period just prior to 1914, which may make them invaluable to a person seeking to prove date of birth in order to qualify for Social Security or Medicare benefits. It was not until 1914 that the Bureau of Vital Statistics was established in the State Health Department.

Although the beginnings of Methodism in Maryland may be traced back to 1766, early development was slow and it was not until the Revolutionary Period that formal services began to be held on a regular basis in Methodist Episcopal Churches. In 1828 a stormy controversy over doctrine eventually led to the establishment of a separate branch called Methodist Protestant. Another dispute, this time over the slavery question, caused the southern sympathizers to withdraw from the Methodist Episcopal Church and organize themselves into the Methodist Episcopal Church South. Finally, in 1940, these three branches were reunited under the name Methodist Church.

We are always pleased to have researchers who have a somewhat broader interest than family history use the materials in our custody and we are grateful when they make the fruits of their research available to us, so that other searchers may benefit from their work.

Last year, James S. Van Ness permitted us to make a microfilm copy of his doctoral dissertation, "The Maryland Courts in the American Revolution: A Case Study." Historic Annapolis, Inc. deposited with