

MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE HALL OF RECORDS COMMISSION

A meeting of the Hall of Records Commission was held on Wednesday, June 7, 1944, in the Executive Offices of the State House at Annapolis. Those present were:

The Governor,
Honorable Herbert R. O'Connor

The President of the Board of the Peabody Institute,
Dr. J. Hall Pleasants

The President of the Johns Hopkins University,
Dr. Isaiah Bowman

The President of the St. John's College,
Mr. Stringfellow Barr

The Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals,
Honorable Ogle Marbury

The Comptroller of the Treasury, Honorable J. Millard Tawes, had written in advance to the Secretary to state that due to illness he would not be able to attend and Senator George L. Radcliffe, President of the Maryland Historical Society, was detained in Washington by pressing business of the Senate.

The meeting was called to order at 3:30 P.M. by the Governor who suggested that the first business of the meeting should be the election of a Chairman to succeed the late Chief Judge Carroll T. Bond. Upon the nomination of Dr. Pleasants, Judge Marbury was elected Chairman. The Governor then explained there had been some difficulty in calling a meeting due to the lack of an officer to act in the absence of the Chairman. He suggested, therefore, that a Vice-Chairman be elected. This suggestion met with the approval of the other members of the Commission and upon the nomination of Mr. Barr, Dr. Pleasants was elected Vice-Chairman. The matter of whether there should be a permanent Secretary elected from the Commission or whether the former procedure of designating a temporary Secretary for each meeting by the Chairman be continued was discussed. It was the sense of the members that the permanent secretariat be at the Hall of Records. Mr. Barr thereupon moved that the Archivist be made Secretary. Mr. Barr's motion was seconded and passed.

The Governor suggested that the Commission fix dates for its future meetings. It was pointed out that the Commission had previously decided to hold biennial meetings in April and in October, the date and hour to be set by the Chairman. It was agreed, after some discussion, that these dates were perhaps the most convenient for all of the members. The Governor further suggested that the Chairman might schedule such meetings alternately in Annapolis and Baltimore as the convenience of the members might dictate.

The Archivist then presented to the Commission the names of two groups of employees at the Hall of Records. The first group consisted of

Mr. Roger Thomas, Assistant Archivist	--	appointed March 16, 1942
Mrs. Margaret P. White, Photo-Copyist	--	appointed May 1, 1942
Mr. Clarence Thomas, Watchman II	--	appointed November 1, 1941

all of whom had been approved by the Chairman of the Hall of Records Commission but who were still subject to the confirmation of the Commission as a whole. The second group consisted of

Mrs. Louise M. Hall, Senior Stenographer -- appointed January 1, 1943
Mrs. Elisabeth Hartsook, Junior Assistant Librarian
-- appointed April 1, 1943
Miss Agnes Howard, Junior Assistant Librarian
-- appointed June 1, 1943

whose appointments were altogether temporary since they had been made subsequent to the death of Judge Bond or immediately before when it was no longer possible to consult with him. The Commission took careful note of all those who had been appointed since the last meeting of the Commission and after due inquiry as to their qualifications, it was moved that they be confirmed. The motion was passed. Dr. Bowman then moved that an Executive Committee composed of the Chairman and the Vice-Chairman be empowered by the Commission to pass upon the recommendations of the Archivist for appointments to the staff of the Hall of Records. The motion was passed.

The discussion of the manner in which appointments had been made in the past suggested to Judge Marbury that a compilation of the self-regulatory resolves of the Hall of Records Commission would be useful, and upon his recommendation the Archivist was requested to prepare such a compilation.

The question of whether the manuscript of Liber A, Prince George's County Court records, which had been prepared by the staff of the Hall of Records, should be published, invited a general discussion of what division should be made of the historical records of Maryland between the publication programs of the Maryland Archives Commission and the Hall of Records Commission. Judge Marbury was asked to represent the Commission in a discussion of this matter with Dr. Pleasants editor of the Maryland Archives. It was moved and passed that in the meanwhile the appropriation of Two Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$2,500.00), which the Legislature had made to the Hall of Records for publication in the fiscal year 1944, be reserved for the next fiscal year, subject to the approval of the Comptroller, for the purpose of publishing the manuscript of Liber A, Prince George's County Court records.

The question of whether the present permissive statutes governing the transfer of governmental records from the various county offices to the Hall of Records be continued or whether it would not be more advantageous to substitute mandatory statutes, was discussed. It was the sense of the meeting that there were positive advantages to the second procedure whereupon the Governor offered the following resolution:

"It is the sense of the Commission that all the records now in the courthouses of the State, which were made prior to the adoption of the Federal Constitution by the State of Maryland, be transferred to the Hall of Records and that the Legislative Council be consulted in the matter of framing such legislation as might be necessary to bring about this transfer"

Judge Marbury was asked to consult with the Legislative Council about this matter.

The meeting adjourned at 5 P.M.

Chairman

Morris S. Radloff

Secretary