

MEETING OF THE HALL OF RECORDS COMMISSION
4 P. M., May 18, 1959, AT THE HALL OF RECORDS

SUGGESTED AGENDA

Call to order by the Chairman.

1. Reading of the minutes of the last meeting, held April 9, 1958.

2. Election of officers.

n.b. The officers of the Commission do not serve a fixed term. An election of officers has always been held on the retirement of the Chairman of the Commission and again on the election of a new Governor.

3. Consideration of new members of the staff, appointed since the last meeting of the Commission and approved tentatively by the Executive Committee:

Eunice L. Callahan, Senior Account Clerk, appointed May 28, 1958;

Frank F. White, Junior Archivist, appointed September 17, 1959, in place of Guy Weatherly, promoted to Senior Archivist and successor to Roger Thomas, deceased June 16, 1958.

4. Report on the proposal to place the members of the Hall of Records staff in the State Merit System.

5. Report on the two new Record Centers now under the control of the Hall of Records Commission: one in the new State Office Building in Annapolis, which opened last September, and one which will open this week in the new State Office Building at Baltimore.

6. Report on legislation concerning the MARYLAND MANUAL. The Act of Assembly, Senate Bill No. 88 (session of 1958), reprinted on page 52 of the Twenty-Third Annual Report of the Archivist of the Hall of Records, was passed at the 1959 session (Ch. 506) with one amendment. While the Hall of Records will compile, edit and print the MANUAL, and funds for this purpose will be in its budget, the Secretary of State will continue to be the issuing officer.

7. Report on the status of the revised version of the MARYLAND GUIDE. (The members of the Commission will find the two opinions of the Attorney General having to do with the GUIDE in the Twenty-Third Annual Report of the Archivist, page 50-51.)

8. Report on the removal of the Land Office from the Hall of Records to the new State Office Building in Annapolis and subsequent legal actions.

MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE HALL OF RECORDS
COMMISSION

A meeting of the Hall of Records Commission was held Monday, May 18, 1959, at the Hall of Records in Annapolis. The following members were present:

The Chief Judge of The Maryland Court of Appeals,
Honorable Frederick W. Brune, Chairman,

The President of St. John's College,
Dr. Richard D. Weigle, Vice Chairman,

The President of the Maryland Historical Society,
Honorable George L. Radcliffe,

The Comptroller of the Treasury
Honorable Louis L. Goldstein.

The meeting was called to order by the Chairman at 4 p. m.. A motion to dispense with the reading of the minutes of the last meeting, April 7, 1958, was adopted. The minutes were thereupon approved in the form in which they had previously been circulated.

Following its established procedure, the Hall of Records Commission held an election of officers, this being the first meeting after the election of a new Governor. Honorable Frederick W. Brune was reelected Chairman, and Dr. Richard D. Weigle was reelected Vice Chairman.

Appointments of new members of the staff of the Hall of Records listed below were approved by the Commission:

Eunice L. Callahan, Senior Account Clerk,
Frank F. White, Junior Archivist.

The question of whether staff members of the Hall of Records should be included in the State Merit System was then discussed at length. A motion was made and carried instructing the Archivist to take steps to accomplish this purpose subject to the approval of Governor Tawes.

The plans of the new Record Center in the State Office Building at Annapolis, which had been put in operation in September 1958, were shown to the members of the Commission. The Archivist then announced the opening of a Record Center in the new State Office Building at Baltimore; and the Commission was informed that the purpose of both Record Centers is to house and service the semi-current records of State and county governmental agencies which are required by law or usage to be kept for a certain number of years but which have no permanent historical value. The Archivist reported that he was extremely pleased with the two Record Centers and that he judged them to be the best equipped and best arranged in the country.

Senator Radcliffe asked how these three separate operations were to be administered. He was informed that the Record Centers would be the day to day charge of Rex Beach, the Assistant Records Administrator. The Archivist would have general control; but he did not contemplate spending more than perhaps a day a month in the Record Centers at Annapolis and Baltimore.

The members of the Commission expressed satisfaction that the MARYLAND MANUAL, which had been a responsibility of the Hall of Records Commission since 1947 by order of the Governor, had now been made a statutory responsibility through the passage of Chapter 506 of the Acts of 1959. This new law provides that the MARYLAND MANUAL will continue to be issued by the Secretary of State, but that the funds for editing, compiling and printing will, in the future, be included in the budget of the Hall of Records Commission.

Several suggestions were made for the improvement of the MANUAL. Among others, it was proposed that photographs and biographies of the following officers be included: the Comptroller of the Treasury, the State Treasurer, the Attorney General and the Secretary of State. The Archivist was instructed to suggest these additions to the Secretary of State and to include them in the forthcoming issue of the MANUAL if they met with Mr. Finan's approval.

The problem of proprietary rights to the revised edition of the MARYLAND GUIDE was then taken under consideration. The Archivist was instructed to seek further counsel from the Attorney General before any steps were taken to publish this volume now being prepared by the Hall of Records Commission.

The Archivist then reported at length on the removal of the Land Office from the Hall of Records to the new State Office Building at Annapolis, and the subsequent legal problems which had arisen. Copies of the Order of the Anne Arundel County Circuit Court were examined and it was announced that while this Order had made it possible for the Hall of Records Commission to occupy our whole building for the present, the case was not finally settled but was on appeal to the Court of Appeals.

The Commission discussed informally the possibility of enlarging the Hall of Records Commission or otherwise changing its membership. Several of the members felt that there might be some advantage in adding to the ex officio membership additional members appointed by the Governor for a limited term. This might include members of the State and county governments who are especially interested in recordkeeping; for example, the Attorney General, the State Auditor, the President of the Maryland Court Clerks Association, and so forth. It was decided that further study should be given to this question and that it might properly be included in the agenda of the next meeting of the Hall of Records Commission.

The meeting adjourned sine die at 5 p. m..

Fredrick W. Hume
Chairman

Monie S. Bell
Secretary