

MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE HALL OF RECORDS
COMMISSION

A meeting of the Hall of Records Commission was held Tuesday, September 11, 1962, 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 Governor of Maryland,
Honorable J. Millard Tawes,

The Comptroller of the Treasury,
Honorable Louis L. Goldstein,

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

The President of the Peabody Institute,
Herbert J. Watt, Esq.

The meeting was called to order by the Chairman at 4 P.M. He noted the presence of Mr. Watt who has succeeded John R. Montgomery as President of the Peabody Institute.

A motion was made and passed to dispense with the reading of the minutes of the last meeting, April 11, 1960. The minutes were thereupon approved in the form in which they had previously been circulated.

The Archivist summarized a report on the recordkeeping facilities of the Hall of Records and the Land Office which had been prepared at the request of the Commission by experts from the Library of Congress and the National Archives. This report had been submitted to the Board of Public Works and subsequently published in full in the Twenty-fifth Annual Report of the Archivist. Among the recommendations made by the report were:

1. That the fire extinguishers at the Hall of Records be relocated and that they be inspected at prescribed intervals. This has been done.
2. That the velocity of the air movement in the stack area be increased. The proper pump has now been installed to make this change possible and the other necessary equipment will soon be available.
3. The air-conditioning problems of the Land Office have also been improved by increasing the velocity of air circulation and by closing the doors to the vestibule and to other offices. No trouble has been reported by the Land Office since these changes were made.

The Archivist reported to the Commission that the 1961-62 Maryland Manual, the first to be circulated by the Hall of Records, was printed in an edition of 5,700 copies, a thousand more than in previous years. Of this number 400 were purchased by the University of Maryland for classes in government and 600 were provided for sale to the public. The Archivist pointed out that in the past the printers had sold copies, but the number sold was unknown to us. Nor did we know how many had been distributed free of charge by the Office of the Secretary of State. As of September 4th, \$2,773.50 had been realized from sales of the Manual; 3,453 copies had been distributed gratis and 1,427 were on hand. Of the latter about half will be required for new legislators and officers after the November election. Not enough copies had been printed to provide for free copies to the 700 odd elementary schools. Mr. Goldstein moved that sufficient copies of the next Manual be printed so that every school, public, private and parochial, secondary and elementary be provided with free copies. His motion was seconded and passed.

The Archivist then described the steps he had taken to follow the instructions of the Commission in regard to the possible consolidation of the recordkeeping functions of the Hall of Records Commission and the Commissioner of the Land Office. Following a conference with the Governor he had, on the advice of Mr. Tawes, written to the Attorney General asking for his assistance in preparing legislation to accomplish this end. The fact that the Land Office is a constitutional office posed special problems which only the Chief Law Officer could resolve. Unfortunately, the press of other business prevented the Attorney General from giving this matter his attention. At the suggestion of Governor Tawes the Commission asked the Archivist to press the matter at this time so that legislation might be prepared for submission to the General Assembly of 1963.

The following candidates for appointment to the staff of the Hall of Records were discussed by the Commission. It was pointed out that all of these appointments were in subprofessional classifications and with one exception they were replacements. The single exception was the Photographer I in Program .02. This is a new position created by the Board of Public Works for the purpose of accelerating our microfilm program. On motion of Mr. Watt all of the candidates were approved as follows:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Classification Title</u>
PROGRAM .01:	
Helen H. Kilborn	Stenographer-Secretary
Anna W. Hantske	Stenographer, Accounting
PROGRAM .02:	
Ronald C. Saddler	Photographer I
PROGRAM .03:	
Elizabeth Kimpton	Principal Stenographer
James F. Stymiest	Principal Clerk
Donald L. Bullock	Senior Clerk
Genevieve G. Rehn	Senior Clerk

The rapid turnover in clerical and stenographic personnel was noted by the Archivist who pointed out especially that vacancies in the housekeeping position of stenographer, accounting have been most frequent. He advised the Commission that he has called this to the attention of the Commissioner of Personnel. Mr. Goldstein remarked that his offices also suffer from this turnover problem; he attributed much of it to competition from Federal Agencies in and near Annapolis.

The Archivist advised the Commissioner that the salary scales of the professional staff have lagged behind those paid by other agencies of the State government. He noted for example, that in 1939, when he became Archivist, his salary, \$5,000 per annum, was higher than that paid to any other state officer with only a few exceptions in the medical field but that his present salary \$9,700-\$12,125 is less than that of many division heads. He further noted that whereas it was once the highest paid state archival salary in the country it is now topped by New York, North Carolina and perhaps others (figures are not available in several states). He reported that his efforts to have the professional salaries reviewed last year had failed but that he was renewing his efforts this year.

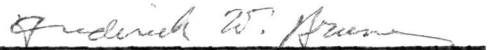
After some discussion, Senator Radcliffe moved that the Commission go on record as favoring the increases asked by the Archivist. Dr. Weigle offered as an amendment that the Commission endorse salary adjustments but that the precise scales be left to the discretion of the Commissioner of Personnel and the Standard Salary Board after a comparative study of archival salaries elsewhere and salaries of positions of comparable responsibility in the Maryland State Government. Senator Radcliffe's motion was passed as amended.

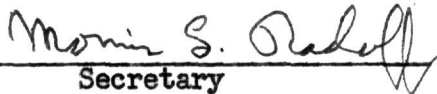
Abstracts of conveyances (and later, of mortgages and releases of mortgages) recorded in the counties were sent to the Court of Appeals from 1784 to 1874. Thereafter, this became a function of the Land Office which took custody of the earlier records. Except where the originals have been lost--Calvert and St. Mary's Counties--these abstracts have been made obsolete by the microfilming of the original records in the counties. Since 1949, microfilm copies have been required in lieu of abstracts. When the Land Office moved to the new State Office Building these abstracts were left behind; they fill an entire level of the stack area and they are never used except in the case of the two counties already mentioned. Since the space they occupy is badly needed, the Archivist proposes that they be removed from the Hall of Records. It is his thought that they be offered to county historical societies or other interested local groups. If they are refused, he proposes that they be destroyed. After some discussion this proposal was approved subject to the advice of the Attorney General and the permission of the Board of Public Works.

Archival strays were discussed at length. The Archivist explained that since 1937 the Hall of Records has been attempting to retrieve official Maryland State records which have become a part of the collection of the Library of Congress. He proposed that a suit be joined with that institution. The purpose of such a suit would be to establish a precedent so that records which have found their way into other hands, institutional as well as private, might also be reclaimed. The Chairman did not feel that a suit should be the next step

taken; he thought that congressional action might accomplish the same result without the hazards and difficulties of a suit against an agency of the Federal Government. A suit he thought ought to be a last resort. The other members of the Commission agreed with the Chairman who thereupon authorized the Archivist to ask the assistance of a member of the Maryland delegation to Congress in resolving this problem.

There being no further business the Commission adjourned sine die at 5:25 P.M.


Chairman


Secretary