

HALL OF RECORDS COMMISSION MEETING
MINUTES
November 10, 1966

A meeting of the Hall of Records Commission was held November 10, 1966, at the Hall of Records in Annapolis. The meeting was called to order by the Vice-Chairman, Dr. Richard D. Weigle. The last elected Chairman, Judge Stedman Prescott, retired from the Court of Appeals during the summer and, therefore, is no longer a member of the Commission.

The minutes of the last meeting of the Hall of Records Commission, September 21, 1965, were approved as circulated previously. A motion to that effect was made by Governor Tawes, and carried unanimously.

Chief Judge Hall Hammond was elected Chairman of the Commission and Dr. Weigle was re-elected Vice-Chairman.

A list of the members of the staff of the Hall of Records, appointed since the last meeting of the Commission, was then submitted for the consideration of the Commission. All of the appointees were approved. (See appended list)

The Commission then turned to the problem of negotiations with the Library of Congress concerning Maryland State Records now in the custody of Dr. L. Quincy Mumford, Librarian of Congress. The Archivist reported that he had made no progress in his attempt to have these records returned to the State of Maryland through Charles McC. Mathis, Jr., who had undertaken the task and who had pursued it vigorously. Judge Brune reported that Congressman Mathias had been in touch with him as well, and that he was convinced that the records in question had formerly been in the possession of the State of Maryland. He reported that Mr. Mathias had advised him that there might be a possibility of their return to the State in payment of compensation to the Library of Congress.

The Archivist advised the Commission that the Librarian of Congress had proposed to him that the records be exchanged for others now in the possession of the State of Maryland. He had felt it necessary to refuse this offer because there were no records of the Hall of Records that were not in the possession of the State of Maryland, and he did not have the authority, nor did he feel that anyone else had the authority, to alienate the State's title to them. Besides, there were no records in our custody that would be of any conceivable interest to the national government.

Dr. Weigle then moved that negotiations for the return of these records be removed from the hands of Congressman Mathias, and that the problem be submitted to the entire Maryland delegation in Congress, with the thought that a joint resolution in Congress authorizing the return of these records might result. Dr. Weigle suggested that compensation be considered. An amendment to Dr. Weigle's motion was suggested by Mr. Goldstein, who thought that if

the records in truth belonged to the State of Maryland, no compensation should be considered, or the consideration of compensation should be postponed until we were certain that they would not be returned otherwise. Dr. Weigle's motion, as amended by Mr. Goldstein, was carried. Dr. Weigle further suggested that the approach to the Maryland delegation be made by Governor Tawes, who agreed to undertake the task.

The Commission then took up the various problems which resulted from the passage of a constitutional amendment abolishing the office of the Commissioner of the Land Office (Question No. 16 on the ballot of November 8, 1966, Chapter 489 of the Acts of 1966). This constitutional amendment was to take effect at the end of the term of the present Commissioner of the Land Office January 25, 1967. Chapter 488 of the Acts of 1966 provided that the Hall of Records take over the duties of the Commissioner of the Land Office if the Constitutional amendment passed.

This new state of affairs posed various problems. First, the employees of the Land Office had to be taken over, along with the records, by the Hall of Records Commission. The Archivist advised the members of the Commission that due to two deaths in the staff of the Land Office within the last few months, there were now two vacancies, and there would be a third vacancy when the Commissioner of the Land Office retired. Mr. Goldstein advised the Commission that these employees, as well as the vacancies, would be considered as part of the staff of the Hall of Records, and that the budget of the Land Office would be turned over to the Hall of Records in its entirety. The Archivist was advised to take this matter up with the budget authorities on the occasion of his budget hearing November 17, 1966. He promised to do so. ✓

The problem of the space now occupied by the Land Office was next considered by the Commission and the Governor and Mr. Goldstein advised the Archivist that the space as well as the budget of the Land Office would be turned over to the Hall of Records, if there were need for it. It was proposed by the Archivist that the old records of the Land Office (patents, warrants, chancery court) be moved to the Hall of Records and that room be made for them by destroying or placing in the county historical societies most of the abstracts of conveyances now occupying the first deck of the vault. The Commission opposed the destruction of these records, but agreed that they might prove useful to the county historical societies. It was their feeling, however, that the Archivist should ask for the opinion of the Attorney General as to the legality of this procedure.

There being no further business, the Commission adjourned at 3:10 p.m. sine die.

In addition to Dr. Weigle, Vice-Chairman, and Judge Hall Hammond, Chairman, the following Commissioners were present: J. Millard Tawes, Governor of Maryland; Louis L. Goldstein, Comptroller of the Treasury; Judge Frederick W. Brune, President of the Maryland Historical Society.

Monica E. Reedoff
Secretary

Hall Hammond
Chairman

NEW EMPLOYEES OF THE HALL OF RECORDS COMMISSION

<u>NAME</u>	<u>POSITION</u>	<u>DATE EMPLOYED</u>
Sarah Wadley Salter	Archivist II	January 12, 1966 (Reinstated)
Charles William White	Clerk I	March 9, 1966 vice John R. Goodwin
Beverly Ann Baker	Archivist II	April 20, 1966 vice Robert O. Benson
Judith Lee Lilley	Manuscript Repair Technician	May 4, 1966 vice Patricia C. Goldsborough
Kenneth Leo Thompson	Manuscript Repair Technician	May 4, 1966 vice Beatrice B. Hiltabidle