



GEORGE R. LEWIS
SECRETARY

STATE OF MARYLAND

DEPARTMENT OF GENERAL SERVICES

HALL OF RECORDS

P. O. BOX 828
ANNAPOLIS, MD. 21404
TELEPHONE 267-5915

MORRIS L. RADOFF
ARCHIVIST AND RECORDS ADMINISTRATOR
COMMISSIONER OF LAND PATENTS
GUST SKORDAS
ASSISTANT ARCHIVIST
REX BEACH
ASSISTANT RECORDS ADMINISTRATOR

HALL OF RECORDS COMMISSION MEETING

February 14, 1972 3:00 p.m.

Hall of Records, St. John's Street and College Avenue, Annapolis

TENTATIVE AGENDA

1. Mr. George R. Lewis, Secretary of the Department of General Services, will explain the relationship of the Hall of Records Commission with the Department of General Services, of which the Hall of Records has become a part.
2. The end of the controversy with the Library of Congress over fugitive Maryland archives in their custody.
3. Writs of replevin and their use in the recovery of public records as illustrated by the action of the Clerk of the Circuit Court of Frederick County.
4. The question of the Scharf Collection at the Maryland Historical Society. Whether this Collection as a whole or in part should be transferred to the custody of the Hall of Records Commission.

TEMPORARY APPOINTMENTS TO THE HALL OF RECORDS STAFF FOR
APPROVAL BY THE HALL OF RECORDS COMMISSION MEETING ON
FEBRUARY 14, 1972

Mrs. Darlene D. Boettcher - Manuscript Repair Technician

Mrs. Martha L. Bontz - Office Secretary I

Mrs. Dunhild D. Darden - Office Clerk II

Mrs. Diane J. Frese - Archivist I

Mr. Clarence W. Johnson - Clerk I

Mrs. Andrea M. Kallis - Manuscript Repair Technician

Mrs. Janet M. Mayes - Typist-Clerk II

Mr. James W. McConnaughay - Public Records Examiner

Mr. Reginald McHenry - Photographer I

Mr. Melvin H. Meyer - Public Records Examiner

Mr. Mardean R. Miller - Account Clerk II

Mrs. Pamela S. Narbeth - Archivist I

Mr. Gilbert W. Roberts - Administrative Assistant II

Mrs. Cara G. Ryan - Archivist II

Mrs. Mina G. Schoenfelder - Manuscript Repair Technician

Miss Patricia M. Vanorny - Archivist II

HALL OF RECORDS COMMISSION MEETING
February 14, 1972

The meeting of the Hall of Records Commission was called to order at 3:00 p.m. by Chief Judge Hall Hammond, Chairman. There were present, besides the Chairman, Dr. Richard D. Weigle, President of St. John's College and Vice-Chairman of the Commission, Louis L. Goldstein, Comptroller of the Treasury, Samuel Hopkins, President of the Maryland Historical Society and George R. Lewis, Secretary of the Department of General Services.

The minutes of the last meeting, November 10, 1966, were approved without reading because a copy had been sent to each member subsequent to this meeting and after such a long lapse of time it was considered by the Chairman, to be unnecessary. The Archivist summarized the contents. The minutes were then approved.

Mr. Lewis was asked to explain the relationship of the Hall of Records Commission with the Department of General Services. The Hall of Records was put under the Department of General Services by Chapter 97, Acts of 1970. Mr. Lewis explained that certain changes were made in the governing of the Hall of Records. The Governor was no longer a member of the Commission but his place was taken by Mr. Lewis, Secretary of the Department of General Services. He explained further that the budget of the Hall of Records would now be included in the budget of his department. He said also, that thus far he has made no changes in the archival section of the Hall of Records and he does not contemplate doing so in the future. However, he suggested to the Commission that the members of the staff be

put under the merit system. He noted that there was only one other department where the employees are all appointive, namely the Department of Education, and he feels that it is no longer necessary for the Hall of Records to follow this procedure. The Archivist then pointed out that at present he has a wide field from which to choose employees. For example, he has recently appointed an Archivist II from the University of South Carolina and a second from the University of South Dakota. Under the merit system rules, he would not have been able to appoint these individuals. Mr. Lewis replied that there is a certain amount of flexibility now in the choosing of personnel and he felt that if someone was especially necessary to the work at the Hall of Records, this could be managed in the future. The Commission did not take any action on this matter but they looked on Mr. Lewis' recommendation favorably. Mr. Lewis was accompanied by Mr. Robin Zee, who is in charge of Central Services, a division of General Services, of which the Hall of Records is a part.

The Archivist reported on the final steps in the controversy with the Librarian of Congress over the fugitive Maryland archives in his custody. He pointed out that there had been a joint resolution in the Maryland Assembly introduced by Senator James, calling on the Librarian to return these records to the Hall of Records. There was another joint resolution, House Resolution No. 170, which had been introduced by Congressman Friedel, who was at that time Chairman of the House Administration Committee and also the Chairman of the Subcommittee on the Library of Congress. Mr. Friedel had scheduled us for a hearing with the Librarian of Congress and three members of his staff for May 20, 1969. We attended the hearing and the results were that the Committee decided that these fugitive materials, eight volumes, should be placed in the custody of the

State of Maryland with certain restrictions. The restrictions concerned the care of the records. Mr. Goldstein felt that one of these provisions, requiring that permission in writing be obtained from the Librarian of Congress before we undertake any repair or preservation, was unfair to us because we had for a long time, been leaders in such work in the country. The Archivist replied that he would take this matter up with the Librarian of Congress but in the meanwhile, he would like to ask that Liber B of the Auditor's Journal, which was in very bad condition, be laminated and rebound after having sought the permission of the Librarian of Congress to do this.

The matter of replevin fugitive records then came under discussion. The Archivist noted the case now pending of the Clerk of the Court of Frederick County who is attempting to restore to his custody records which had strayed and were now for sale in the hands of a dealer. He asked for a writ of replevin which was issued by the Chief Judge of the Circuit Court of Frederick County and now the records are in the interim custody of the Hall of Records until the case is heard.

The Archivist pointed out that replevin was a dangerous method to use in recovering records because it made for the disappearance of records or their sale outside the State. Furthermore, it endangered institutions like the Maryland Historical Society, who had records of Maryland which had been procured honestly by purchase and by bequest many years ago. Mr. Goldstein thought that a proper course of action to recover records would be to write to the owners requesting their return and giving the reasons therefor. A second letter, if the first got no results, was to be a bit more urgent and the third was to threaten replevin. The Archivist thought that this might alleviate the resentment of persons

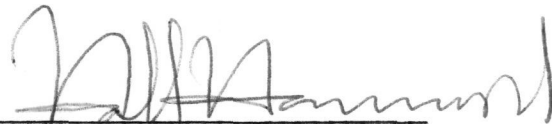
who had such records and who might return them out of patriotism when they understood the reasons why they were wanted by the State.

The Archivist then brought up the question of the Scharf Collection at the Maryland Historical Society. This is an enormous collection which Thomas J. Scharf, the eminent historian of Maryland and Land Commissioner for the years 1884-1892, had gathered. It includes a great deal of printed materials having to do with the Confederacy, with Philadelphia, Delaware and Maryland on which subjects he had written very full accounts. There are also a great many manuscripts strayed from the Archives of the State of Maryland. The Archivist proposed that this manuscript collection be returned to the State. Mr. William Filby, the new Director of the Maryland Historical Society, who accompanied Mr. Hopkins to the meeting, replied that while little had been done in the past to arrange these records and make them available for use, ~~but that~~ in the last two years he had concentrated on the collection and he estimates that the Society has spent about \$15,000 for labor and \$6,000 for recopying these materials. Dr. Weigle proposed that the materials be microfilmed and then they could be better examined and it could be better determined which belonged to the State and which did not. Mr. Filby did not believe that microfilming would be practical in this case and suggested Xeroxing. He thought that Xerox copies of the manuscript materials would cost the State about \$6,000. Since these funds are not available to the Hall of Records, Mr. Lewis was asked for his thoughts on the matter. Mr. Lewis pointed out that the budget of his Department was very tight this year, and he doubted that money could be found for this project. Mr. Goldstein then commented that he was certain that the money would be made available by the Board of Public Works. Judge Hammond then suggested that Mr. Filby

and Mr. Hopkins present the Archivist with more exact data concerning the Maryland material and the cost of Xeroxing and then the matter would be considered again by the Hall of Records Commission. A motion to this effect was made, seconded and passed.

A list of staff members who had been appointed since the last meeting of the Hall of Records Commission and who were still in our employ was presented to the Commission for approval. Mr. Lewis considered this as a function of the Hall of Records Commission which was no longer necessary because all of these employees had been scrutinized in advance of their appointment by his Department or by the Department of Personnel.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 p.m. sine die.



Chairman, Hall of Records
Commission



Secretary