

MINUTES  
HALL OF RECORDS COMMISSION MEETING  
OAKLAND HALL  
Prince Frederick, MD  
25 September, 1984

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A luncheon meeting of the Hall of Records Commission was held at the residence of Comptroller and Mrs. Goldstein, Oakland Hall, Prince Frederick, Calvert County, on 25 September 1984. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Robert Murphy at 1:55 p.m.

The following members were in attendance:

The Honorable Robert C. Murphy, Chairman  
Hall of Records Commission  
Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals

The Honorable Louis L. Goldstein  
Comptroller of the Treasury

The Honorable William S. James  
Treasurer of the State of Maryland

The Honorable Anne S. Perkins  
House of Delegates

Dr. John S. Toll  
University of Maryland

Dr. Edwin J. Delattre  
St. John's College

Ellery B. Woodworth, representing Dr. Steven Muller  
Johns Hopkins University

Also present were:

Edward C. Papenfuse, Secretary  
Hall of Records Commission

Gregory A. Stiverson  
Assistant State Archivist

James B. Rowland  
Executive Assistant to the Governor

Robin Zee, Assistant Secretary  
Department of General Services

Minutes of Last Meeting

The minutes of the last meeting were adopted as submitted.

Report of the Budget Committee

Chairman Murphy described the composition and activities of the Budget Committee, which he appointed to fulfill the mandate of the new archives law. The Committee consists of Treasurer James, Senator Lapidés, Delegate Perkins, Secretary Seboda, and Chairman Murphy. Judge Murphy noted that the Budget Committee had asked Dr. Papenfuse to request an extension of the deadline for filing the Archives' Fiscal Year 1986 budget so that the Budget Committee, and the full Hall of Records Commission, could review the draft and provide the advice required by the new law.

Judge Murphy noted that the last meeting of the Hall of Records Commission had reviewed three items that could not be included in the Archives' budget--funds for moving into the new facility, new staff members, and the index preservation project. Dr. Papenfuse said that the budget he had prepared for Fiscal Year 1986 came in exactly on MARC, and while he was able to add in funds for the move into the new Archives building he had been unable to provide for the new required staff position, the card index preservation program, or the furniture requirements for the new building.

Treasurer James stated that most of the furniture could be purchased out of capital funds. Dr. Papenfuse said that there should be ample surplus funds in the capital appropriations already made for the new building, but that State Planning guidelines indicated that unless an item was fixed property with a life of fifteen years or more it could not be purchased from capital funds. Comptroller Goldstein argued that good furniture should have a useful life of more than fifteen years, and that most of the furniture in the new Archives should meet this test. Mr. Zee said there was ample precedent for using capital funds to purchase furniture.

It was agreed that the furniture requirements of the new Archives building should be paid for out of capital funds, and that this item should not be added into the Fiscal Year 1986 Budget.

On the matter of the four new positions--1 Archivist I, 2 Stack Attendants, and 1 Secretary--Comptroller Goldstein moved that the positions be added into the Fiscal Year 1986 budget as an addition to the MARC. The motion passed unanimously.

On the matter of the card index preservation project, Dr. Papenfuse discussed a new proposal from a firm that would like to undertake the task as a pilot information storage and retrieval project. The data on the cards would be converted to video disc by state-of-the-art laser technology. The estimated cost is \$15,000 less than the proposal previously received to convert the cards to

microfiche, and it offers much greater flexibility. Output from the video disc can be accessed through keyboard terminals and screens, or it can be converted to microform.

Mr. Zee conveyed a suggestion by Secretary Seboda that the cost of the index card preservation program be split between two fiscal years. Dr. Papenfuse explained that this would not be practical given the nature of the video disc proposal that had been received. The company could only undertake the project if the upfront money for development of the system was available.

Comptroller Goldstein moved that the Archives pursue the proposal to convert the card index to video disc by placing the required funds in the budget as an item above the MARC. The motion, which was seconded by Treasurer James, passed unanimously.

Judge Murphy <sup>recommended</sup> ~~instructed~~ Dr. Papenfuse to submit a cover letter with the budget, addressed to Governor Hughes and Secretary Stettler, indicating that the Hall of Records Commission had directed that the staff positions and card index preservation project be added into the budget above the MARC and that the Commission, on recommendation of the Budget Committee, otherwise unanimously approves the revised proposal budget for FY86. A copy of the letter is to be sent to all members of the Archives' Budget Committee.

On another matter, Dr. Papenfuse described the requirements mandated by the Department of Budget and Fiscal Planning for development of a Master Plan for Word Processing Equipment. The Archives uses word processing equipment for records inventory control, patron registration, circulation control over records, accounting, invoicing, publications, and correspondence. Dr. Papenfuse believes that the Archives could benefit from expert advice in developing the Word Processing Master Plan. The Johns Hopkins University offered the services of Richard Henley of the Applied Physics Laboratory, who is Hopkins' expert on word processing equipment, to discuss the Archives' requirements and evaluate the Master Plan.

#### Index Preservation

Since this item had been fully discussed under the Budget Committee item, no further action was required.

#### Publications

Dr. Papenfuse reported that the second volume of the Biographical Dictionary of the Maryland Legislature is currently being typeset, and the volume should be completed in late December.

Dr. Papenfuse and Dr. Stiverson reported on the status of the forthcoming edition of the Maryland Manual. Government reorganization, especially in the Senate, has caused some delays, but publication is still expected during the upcoming session of the General Assembly.

Dr. Papenfuse then reviewed the travelling photographic exhibit, "Maryland Time Exposure," which the Archives and the Commission on Artistic Property are sponsoring. As part of the research that went into the travelling exhibit, Mame Warren discovered many collections of historical Maryland photographs, still in private hands, that are worthy of preservation. Ms. Warren has proposed to follow up her research by becoming a contractual employee of the State Archives for a year, during which time she would produce a guide to the photographic collections of the Archives and help secure additional collections for the Archives. The cost of the contract would be \$23,655.

On a motion by Comptroller Goldstein, seconded by Treasurer James, the Commission unanimously approved the contract with Mame Warren to produce a guide to the Archives' photographic collections and to assist in securing additional photographic collections for preservation in the Archives.

Dr. Papenfuse circulated a newspaper article describing a copy of the 1635 "Relation of Maryland," which was recently sold at auction. This important pamphlet, with the earliest map of Maryland bound in, was purchased by friends of the Archives who intend to give it to the Archives. The gift will probably be made in the fall of 1986. Dr. Papenfuse asked permission to consider reprinting the pamphlet next year in commemoration of the Archives' 50th anniversary and the 350th anniversary of the pamphlet's publication. Comptroller Goldstein moved that the Archives consider reprinting the "Relation of Maryland" in 1986 and the motion passed unanimously.

#### Recent and Forthcoming Activities

Dr. Papenfuse distributed copies of the recently published State House brochure, authored by Sara Hanan and himself. The costs of producing the brochure were borne by the Maryland Heritage Committee.

The Hall of Records Commission expressed its thanks to the State Archives' staff members responsible for the State House brochure and the first issue of the Archives' Newsletter.

Dr. Papenfuse then described plans for a series of regional meetings this fall to consider the status of record keeping in Maryland. The meetings are part of the NHPRC-funded records appraisal and assessment project, which the Archives has been conducting since January 1.

#### New Building Progress Report

Dr. Papenfuse noted that work began today on pouring the concrete slab for the basement. Work is about three and one-half months behind schedule. Some of this time may be made up, but best estimates now are that the building will be ready for records in the spring of 1986, with full operations beginning in the late summer or fall of 1986.

Dr. Papenfuse discussed an offer by the Maryland Heritage Committee to provide a plaque or cornerstone for the new building. A letter regarding this has been sent to Secretary Seboda, and the Commission agreed to accept the gift if the Heritage Committee finds that it has sufficient funds to purchase it.

Other Business

Dr. Papenfuse discussed his recent contacts with Project '87, the Maryland Humanities Council, and the Annapolis Heritage Committee to discuss and plan for appropriate commemorations of the 200th anniversary of the adoption of the federal Constitution. Comptroller Goldstein emphasized the importance of working with the schools to help educate students on the importance of the federal Constitution. The State Archives will be working with the Maryland Humanities Council in preparing an educational package that can be used in the schools.

Treasurer James asked what progress had been made on erecting a plaque to Governor Francis Nicholson. Dr. Papenfuse said that the wording for the plaque was complete, and that the sign would be placed on the corner of the James Senate Office Building by the Department of General Services. Treasurer James discussed the importance of Governor Nicholson to Annapolis, and outlined the historical facts concerning Nicholson and Bloomsbury Square that would be included on the plaque.

Treasurer James then described his concern that the new tunnel across the Patapsco River will be named after James McHenry. McHenry is already commemorated in the name of the fort, and Treasurer James believes it would be more appropriate to name the new tunnel after Baltimore's Sam Smith, Revolutionary War soldier, hero of the War of 1812, and, as an octogenarian, Mayor of Baltimore. It was moved by Treasurer James that the Commission write a letter to Secretary Hellman of Transportation urging that the tunnel be named after Smith, and the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Woodward asked if anything had been done about creating a foundation for the State Archives. Dr. Papenfuse said that setting up such a foundation was in the planning stage for next year, the 50th Anniversary of the State Archives.

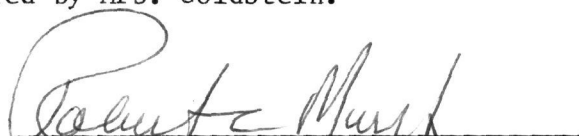
Next Meeting

It was agreed that the next meeting of the Hall of Records Commission would be held in the Calvert Room in the State House in January, following the State of the State message.

Adjournment

The meeting of the Hall of Records Commission adjourned at 3:00 p.m., with appreciation expressed to Comptroller and Mrs. Goldstein for their hospitality, including an exceptionally fine lunch prepared by Mrs. Goldstein.

Approved by the Hall of Records Commission  
January 16, 1985:

  
Robert C. Murphy, Chairman



# MARYLAND STATE ARCHIVES

Edward C. Papenfuse  
State Archivist and  
Commissioner of Land Patents

Hall of Records  
Box 828, Annapolis, MD 21404  
Telephone: (301) 269-3914/3916

Gregory A. Stiverson  
Assistant State Archivist

Hon. Robert C. Murphy  
Chief Judge, Court of Appeals  
Chairman, Hall of Records Commission

Harry Hughes  
Governor

Hall of Records Commission:  
Hon. Earl F. Seboda

Hon. Louis L. Goldstein  
Dr. Edwin J. Delattre

Hon. William S. James  
Dr. John S. Toll

Hon. Julian L. Lapidus  
Dr. Steven Muller

Hon. Anne S. Perkins  
Brian B. Topping

September 28, 1984

The Hon. William K. Hellmann  
Secretary, Department of Transportation  
P.O. Box 8755  
Baltimore-Washington International Airport  
Baltimore, MD 21240

Dear Secretary Hellman:

At its quarterly meeting last Tuesday, the Hall of Records Commission unanimously resolved that you be asked to consider naming the new tunnel under the approach to Baltimore Harbor (near Fort McHenry) after the defender of Baltimore and former mayor, General Samuel Smith.

Samuel Smith had a long and distinguished career as a Maryland Public servant. Because the 1814 line of defense for the Harbor was reasonably close to the location of the new tunnel, it seems only fitting that it be named after the "chief architect of victory," a man who late in life (at the age of 83) took on the management of a troubled city, returning it to stability and prosperity.

Enclosed is a copy of a short biography that the legislative History Project of the State Archives prepared some time ago. If you should need additional information, do not hesitate to call on me.

Sincerely yours,

  
Edward C. Papenfuse

LAH:ecp

cc: Governor Hughes  
Members of the Hall of Records Commission



General Samuel Smith (1752-1837)

Merchant, soldier, politician, statesman, life-long champion of American commerce and the Port of Baltimore, Samuel Smith of Maryland was a man of national stature for more than sixty years. He fought with honor and distinction in the Continental Army during the Revolution, was one of Baltimore's leading merchants, served for forty years in the U. S. Congress, organized the defense of Baltimore during the War of 1812, and spent the last three years of his life as mayor of Baltimore City. Smith's commanding presence inspired confidence and cooperation, and the citizens of Baltimore turned to him in times of crisis. They were never disappointed.

Born in Carlisle, Pennsylvania, on July 27, 1752, to John and Mary Buchanan Smith, Samuel migrated with his parents, their families, and friends to Baltimore Town in 1759, where John established himself as a merchant. After attending schools in Maryland and Delaware, Samuel received his business training in his father's counting house, and at nineteen sailed to Europe as envoy for his father's firm. Throughout his travels he promoted Baltimore, and Smith and Buchanan & Company, as the best source for America's wheat and corn. His visits to the Mediterranean ports of Italy, France, and Spain, and his careful observations in Portugal and England, sharpened his awareness of the commercial world and gave him an understanding of foreign trade which would later help him explain the intricacies of commerce to the planters and lawyers of Congress.

Smith returned home in 1774, a full partner in the reorganized company of John Smith and Sons, to find America preparing for firm

resistance to Great Britain. Smith enlisted in a local militia unit and in January 1776 was commissioned captain in Gen. William Smallwood's regiment of the Maryland Line. With Smallwood, Smith joined General Washington at Long Island and was one of the courageous soldiers who held back British advances while the rest of Washington's army retreated from Long Island through New Jersey. Smith was soon made lieutenant colonel of the 4th Maryland Regiment, and in the fall of 1777 Washington assigned him to prepare Fort Mifflin in the Delaware River against attack by the British on their way to Philadelphia. Smith's small garrison withstood six weeks of siege from superior British forces before Smith himself was wounded and the fort was forced to surrender. In recognition of this "gallant defense" Smith was awarded "an elegant sword" by Congress in November, 1777.

Returning to Baltimore after the Battle of Monmouth in 1778, Smith married Margaret Spear and decided, in early 1779, to resign his commission and attend to the family business. He remained an ardent and quick-tempered patriot however, and accepted the post of commander of the Baltimore City militia. Under Smith's control, the family mercantile firm grew in importance with that of the city; and as one of the port wardens, he encouraged improvements to the harbor.

By 1790, Smith was able to turn over the running of the company to a Buchanan cousin and enter politics. He served two terms in the Maryland House of Delegates in the sessions of 1790 and 1791-1792, before being elected to the U. S. House of Representatives, where he remained until 1803. There he supported the merchants' cause over any party or political considerations. The ability to organize and command, which had enabled him to succeed as an officer and



businessman, now helped him establish the most powerful political organization of the time in Baltimore City. His support of Thomas Jefferson in 1800 won him influence at the highest levels of government. Although he refused the position as Secretary of the Navy, he did act as head of that department for several months.

Smith was first elected to the U. S. Senate in 1802 and served until 1815, being four times chosen president pro tempore of that body. He consistently advocated a strong military and naval force as the United States faced conflict with England and France, and argued for the equalization of tariff duties as a benefit to free trade among nations. His Reciprocity Act of 1815 was an important legislative accomplishment.

As Major General of the Maryland militia, Smith commanded the land and sea defense of Baltimore during the War of 1812. Shortly after war was declared in June 1812, Smith began to ready the harbor for attack. Effectively marshalling local, state, and federal resources, he ordered improvements made to Fort McHenry, the construction of Forts Covington and Babcock, the building of armed barges, and the fortification of Hampstead Hill. By the time the British blockaded the harbor in the spring of 1813, Smith had most of his defenses ready and a battle strategy planned. He refined both over the next year so that, when the attack came in September 1814, Baltimore was prepared. Two years of careful training, discipline, and enforced familiarity with the terrain enabled Baltimore's untried militia, joined by troops from Pennsylvania, Delaware, and Virginia, to repulse the experienced British regulars who landed at North Point. With over 15,000 men under his command, it was Gen. Sam Smith who "was the chief architect of

victory, the man whose energy, stature, and personal prestige made Baltimore capable of resisting the British. From first to last it was his triumph." (Cassell, p. 209)

Smith returned to the U. S. House of Representatives from 1816 to 1822 where, as chairman of the Ways and Means Committee and elder statesman, his opinion was often solicited on financial and trade matters. In 1819, because of the duplicity of his business partner, Smith's company failed and his personal fortune--including his city home and country estate, Montebello--was attached to pay the firm's debts. This loss was a severe blow, but Smith eventually recovered, and, using what resources he could, managed to rebuild his financial security.

Again elected U. S. Senator in 1822, Smith became chairman of the Finance Committee. He remained in the Senate until 1833--a congressional career of forty consecutive years.

When rioting broke out in Baltimore in the summer of 1835 following the failure of the Bank of Maryland the city's government was unable to halt the destruction of property belonging to the Bank's directors. Concerned citizens called upon Samuel Smith for leadership. Still erect and strong at the age of 83, Smith marched through the streets of Baltimore carrying an American flag and rallying the people to his personal authority. With the assent of the military and civil officers, he quickly organized armed patrols which met no resistance. The rioting was over. One month later, the people elected Smith mayor of Baltimore City by popular acclaim. His three years in that office restored control to the city, then the third largest in the country,

and saw improvements made to the harbor, marketplaces, and streets. Smith lobbied successfully in both the state and federal governments for increased aid to the B & O Railroad and the C & O Canal, thus strengthening the city's position as a major port.

On April 22, 1839, five months after leaving the mayor's office, Smith died in his 87th year. His funeral procession was the largest then seen in the city, attended not only by the highest local and state officials, but also by President Martin Van Buren, members of his Cabinet, Congressmen, diplomats, military, civic, and business leaders, and, finally, by thousands of citizens who mourned Smith both as a man who had done much for Baltimore and as a symbol of their nation's independence and security.

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See also articles in:

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and material in the files of the Legislative History Project, Maryland State Archives.