

PREFACE

The plan of the State Records Microfilm Project has been to assemble in microfilm form the official records of the states of the United States in order to prepare an encyclopedia of primary source materials for research use. Its purpose has been to resurrect little known records, to discover supposedly lost records and to coordinate the findings into a pageant of the past. Its aim is to make up the nation's "Heritage Train" which, moving over the country in the future, will display the record of the freedom of America.

The project emerged as a cooperative enterprise of the Library of Congress and the University of North Carolina. In its initial stage, which began in 1941, the project was limited to locating and micro-copying the proceedings of legislative assemblies of the American colonies, territories and states. Resumed in 1946, after suspension during the War, the work assumed a broad expansion in groups of materials which it encompassed. The comprehensive range of these materials is shown in the six regular and five special classes represented in the arrangement outline. The size of the task involved in locating and copying the materials is indicated in that over 55,000 miles of travel have been required for the field work so far. During the course of this work each of the forty-eight states was visited and 120,000 feet of film was exposed. The result represents, with few exceptions, contributions of the combined holdings of official records of the states. Hundreds of agencies, government officials and individual citizens have given of their resources and services in various