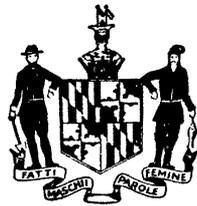


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TWELFTH
ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
ARCHIVIST
OF THE
HALL OF RECORDS



STATE OF MARYLAND
For The Fiscal Year July 1, 1946 Through June 30, 1947

Triplicate Receipt Vouchers, 1938-1946.

Checks Stubs and Canceled Checks, 1938-1946.

The Archivist refused all of the material offered, but pointed out that under the terms of the destruction law, no records less than five years old could be destroyed. On May 27, 1938, the Register of Wills informed us that he was destroying the following:

“Receipt books dated December 1, 1938 to December 31, 1940, inclusively.”

On May 27, 1947, the Clerk of the Circuit Court of Frederick County requested the authority to destroy the following records:

Hunting License Stubs, 1920 to 1942.

Fishing License Stubs, 1920 to 1942.

Summonses for Witnesses in Criminal and Civil Cases, 1875 to 1942.

Orders discharging Witnesses to Grand Jury, 1865 to 1942.

Duplicate Traders Licenses, 1919 to 1942.

Canceled Checks and Check Stubs, 1918 to 1942.

Duplicate copies of office receipts, 1932 to 1942.

The Archivist replied that he agreed that the records had no permanent value. But he pointed out that some of the records appeared to be records of the Court rather than purely administrative records of the Clerk's Office. Since the destruction law prohibits the destruction of “the records of any Court of record in this State,” it seemed best to ask the Attorney General for his opinion as to the legal status of the records before taking further action. This case is still pending.

ACCESSIONS FROM PUBLIC SOURCES

One of the most important accessions of the year was a large collection of material received from the Executive Department composed almost entirely of the correspondence and other papers created during the first six years of Governor Herbert R.

O'Connor's two terms of office. Negotiations for transfer of this material were initiated by the Archivist several months before the new Governor was to take office. Governor O'Connor cooperated to the fullest extent. After removing the papers which were of purely personal interest, he agreed to allow everything else to remain in the custody of the State. The papers relating to the last biennium of his administration were retained at the State House and the rest transferred to the Hall of Records. The material is especially valuable since it gives an excellent picture of the activities of the State during World War II. Equally important is the fact that precedent has been established for the quick transfer of Executive files, which it is hoped will be followed by future governors of the State.

The largest accession of county records came from the Talbot County Circuit Court. A number of the records were badly damaged by mildew and mold as the result of having been stored in a damp basement room in the courthouse. Several years ago, the volume records were removed to the attic and placed on wooden shelves by HRS workers, but the damage had already been done. A good many of the volumes will require extensive repair, while others have been so badly damaged that the only hope of saving the record is the application of special photographic techniques, such as infra-red photography. Two or three volumes may be beyond saving by any means.

The Charles County Land Records up to 1790 have now been transferred to the Hall of Records and photocopied, thus completing our program in that county. In Dorchester and Queen Anne's Counties we are slightly more than halfway through, and in Talbot County we have just begun. We have also acquired indexes to land records of the three counties last named. The Talbot index is one which was transcribed and discarded. We have repaired it and placed it in service in our Index Room. The indexes for Dorchester and Queen Anne's Counties are photostatic copies of those now in use at the courthouses.

Other important transfers of county records included the original papers dating to 1788 from the offices of the Registers