

## INDEXES

Except for a general index of wills listed in 1776,<sup>59</sup> there appear to have been no other indexes to the Prerogative Court Records than the self-contained indexes which may still be found in practically all of the volumes. Even that index seems to have disappeared by 1874, for in that year the Register of Wills for Anne Arundel County was authorized to make an index to the will books.<sup>60</sup> This was the only general index until 1894, when \$1,500 was appropriated for making indexes to the other series.<sup>61</sup> This amount proved insufficient, particularly since part of it was set aside for rearranging and jacketing the original wills. Therefore, additional sums were appropriated in 1896<sup>62</sup> and 1898<sup>63</sup> for completing the job. As a result of this effort, general indexes were provided for all of the Prerogative Court series, except the *Testamentary Proceedings*. The indexing of this series was also begun and libers 1-26 were completed. No further work was done until the records were turned over to the Land Office.

From 1904 to 1906, the indexing of libers 27-30 was completed by John B. League, apparently of his own initiative, for it was not until 1906 when the work had already been finished that the General Assembly appropriated the money to pay him.<sup>64</sup> After a lapse of twenty years, the Commissioner of the Land Office reported in 1926 that the indexing of liber 31 was nearly completed.<sup>65</sup> By 1932, thirteen more volumes had been done.<sup>66</sup> The three libers remaining were indexed before December 1935, for the index was complete when it was transferred to the Hall of Records.

Meanwhile, a card index to wills had been made during the biennium 1932-1934.<sup>67</sup> A new index to accounts was also made, but the typing of the cards had only been partially completed when they were turned over to the Hall of Records.

<sup>59</sup> *Arch. Md.*, XI, 114.

<sup>60</sup> *Laws of Md.*, 1874, ch. 381.

<sup>61</sup> *Ibid.*, 1894, ch. 441.

<sup>62</sup> *Ibid.*, 1896, ch. 34.

<sup>63</sup> *Ibid.*, 1896, ch. 237.

<sup>64</sup> *Ibid.*, 1906, ch. 303.

<sup>65</sup> *Triennial Report of the Commissioner of the Land Office of Maryland from October 1, 1923 to September 30, 1926*, p. 12.

<sup>66</sup> *Biennial Report of the Commissioner of the Land Office of Maryland from October 1, 1930 to September 30, 1932*, p. 17.

<sup>67</sup> *Biennial Report of the Commissioner of the Land Office of Maryland from October 1, 1932 to September 30, 1934*, p. 17.