

Land Office was first organized and the numerous reforms of the second Lord Baltimore put into effect, separate volumes came to be devoted to patents, to warrants, and to certificates and assignments. Things did not immediately proceed quite this definitely for there was a relapse for a short time, possibly due to the unsettlement preceding the Revolution of 1688. It is safe to say, however, that from 1700 on the separation of patents, certificates and warrants was definite and steadily perfected itself. Actually, instead of two series there are three, for though patents and certificates are included in the same series, each is kept in different volumes.

The *Patents* series, from 1634 to 1777, contains one hundred and thirty-three volumes of which some sixty-nine contain patents only, some thirty-eight contain certificates and assignments only and the remainder—all belonging to the earliest period—contain land records of all types. The first four books of the *Patents* series, as has already been suggested and as may be noted in the appended list, contain not only land records of all types but also Court Proceedings, proclamations, Assembly Proceedings and other kinds of business of the province. With Liber 4, or AB&H as it is also called, the entries become confined to land records and from Liber 25 on (or about the year 1680) patents and certificates begin to be kept separately.

The *Warrants* series contains forty-two volumes, the earliest dating from 1661. Actually the first two volumes of the series contain land records of all types (they are also both duplicated in the *Patents* series)⁴³ and the second two contain primarily the proceedings of the Land Council, so that the *Warrants* series proper might be considered to begin with the fifth volume of the series—or around 1680 when warrants first began to be kept separately from other land records.

As had already been noted, these records were kept in the Secretary's office in the early day of the province. In 1680, with the establishment of the Land Office and the creation of the office of Register of the Land Office, the Register became the custodian of them. During the royal government period the controversy over the public or private nature of the land records resulted as we have seen in the patents, warrants and all records relating to title

⁴³ *Warrants* Liber 1 is the equivalent of *Patents* Libers 6 and 7, and *Warrants* Liber 2 is a photocopy of a transcript of *Patents* Liber 0.