

After 1734 the *Rent Rolls* series seems to proceed in continuous, complete fashion, especially in the Eastern Shore rolls. Western Shore rent rolls after 1734 were not kept in a uniform, orderly fashion each year until many years later. There, every few years or so each county seemed to make up a rent roll which would then be known as the "Rent Roll of 1758" or the "Rent Roll of 1762", in which all entries were brought up to date since the last rent roll. But the years varied in different counties and it is impossible to say that the series is complete even though all dates seem to be included, with the exception of Calvert and St. Mary's Counties for which no entries between 1769 and 1775 are to be found. In 1768 the Board of Revenue apparently established a more rigid system and a regular annual additional rent roll was made for each county, as had been done in Eastern Shore counties ever since 1734.

The *Debt Book* series, as has been pointed out, goes back to 1733 for the Eastern Shore counties. Western Shore debt books in the Land Office series begin in 1753, but debt books for the year 1750 are to be found in the Calvert Papers for five Western Shore counties. Each debt book, in its present make-up, consists of from two to eight small volumes bound together into one. This series appears to have been very imperfectly preserved. Over a third of the small annual volumes are missing, mostly in Eastern Shore counties. Only for Charles and St. Mary's counties has the whole series been preserved completely, and since these are both Western Shore counties that means they only date from 1753. Like the rent rolls the debt books were made out in duplicate.

Apropos of the missing debt books and rent rolls mentioned in the foregoing paragraphs, it would seem that the Land Office in the colonial period had a great many more books and papers relating to quit rents which are no longer to be found. This is primarily due, no doubt, to the fact that they were private revenue papers of the Proprietor rather than public records, and secondarily, to the fact that they were for the most part papers rather than volumes. "A List of Books and Papers Relating to the Right Honourable the Lord Proprietarys Rent Rolls of the Eastern Shore received from Col. Edward Tilghman Nov. 13, 1756"<sup>62</sup> enumerates in addition to rent rolls and debt books, a great number of alienation lists, lists of de-

<sup>62</sup> A miscellaneous volume at the Hall of Records.