

recorded....Resolved....that the Register of the Land Office for the Western Shore be....authorized....to record said leases in a good and sufficient bound book for that purpose...." George G. Brewer was Clerk of the Assembly at this time and, as we have seen, it was he who transcribed the leases as had been authorized. Whether some of the leases were loose papers and some of them already recorded in books as Resolution No. 21 for 1828 seems to indicate, is probably undeterminable, since only Brewer's three-volume transcription appears to be extant.

The date of accession of the *Debt Books* and *Rent Rolls* into the Land Office is not easily ascertained. In 1805 there were two resolutions requiring the Clerk of the Council to examine the debt books and complete the indexes, giving the impression that they were then in his care. Kilty, however, writing in 1808 says, "The register of the land office for the western shore has the care and custody of the records and papers arising under the provincial government, not expressly by any law, passed since the revolution, for that of 1781, gives to the registers the charge only of the short extracts of certificates and grants therein mentioned; but, because the records at large, which have been claimed and kept by the state, naturally fell into the hands of that officer and were indeed, placed in his charge by the governor and council when they were surrendered by the proprietary's officers."<sup>68</sup> In 1819, at any rate, debt books for both shores are acknowledged to be in the Land Office, the Western Shore debt books having just recently been deposited there by the Clerk of the Council.<sup>69</sup> No such exact data can be given as to when and whence the *Rent Rolls* came to the Land Office. A resolution of 1815 authorized the Register of the Land Office to transcribe certain records including *Anne Arundel County Rent Roll* No. 1, so it is probable all the rent rolls were by then in the custody of the Land Office. One exception to this, of course, is *Rent Roll* Liber O, which was photocopied from Maryland Historical Society originals and added to the *Rent Rolls* series by the present Chief Clerk of the Land Office, Mr. Arthur Trader.

The Land Office itself was housed in the State House at St. Mary's till 1694 when the capital was moved to Annapolis. Then it took up temporary residence in the Anne Arundel County Court-

<sup>68</sup> Kilty, pp. 321-2.

<sup>69</sup> *Recorded Laws* Liber T. H. No. '6, pp. 449-50.