

to the Commissioner of the Land Office, who had recently moved into his quarters in the new Court of Appeals building.<sup>37</sup> In June 1935, the Commissioner of the Land Office moved into the newly-erected Hall of Records building taking the records with him. A few months later, in December 1935, he transferred the Prerogative Court records to the custody of the Hall of Records Commission, where they now remain.

### EFFORTS FOR THE PRESERVATION OF THE RECORDS

With the possible exception of the land records, no set of Maryland records had received more attention than those of the Prerogative Court. Since adequate repair facilities were not developed until very recently, earlier efforts toward preservation of the records consisted mainly of transcribing damaged pages or whole volumes and replacing worn bindings. As early as 1716, the General Assembly passed a law appointing several commissioners to examine and have repaired the records of the Province.<sup>38</sup> By virtue of this law, a good many of the records in the Commissary General's Office were rebound or given other attention. In a number of instances, two or more of the old libers were bound together, probably in the interest of economy. A committee of both houses of the Assembly was appointed in 1728 to inspect the work done by the commissioners. The report of the committee listing the volumes repaired and showing what was done to them was entered in the proceedings of the Lower House.<sup>39</sup>

Another extensive repair project was carried out in 1834, when the General Assembly authorized the Register of Wills for Anne Arundel County to have transcribed and rebound any of the provincial records in his office.<sup>40</sup> A similar law was passed in 1874 authorizing further repair work on the Prerogative Court records.<sup>41</sup>

Soon after the records were transferred to the Land Office, the legislature appropriated \$6,000 for the restoration of State records.<sup>42</sup> As a result of this law, the entire set of Prerogative Court records was rebound, each series in a distinctive color. In addition, four

<sup>37</sup> *Hall of Records, Catalogue of Archival Material*, p. 53.

<sup>38</sup> Bacon's *Laws*, 1716, ch. 1.

<sup>39</sup> *Arch. Md.*, XXXVI, 236.

<sup>40</sup> *Laws of Md.*, 1834, ch. 147.

<sup>41</sup> *Ibid.*, 1874, ch. 381.

<sup>42</sup> *Ibid.*, 1908, ch. 606.