

for the appointment of a Public Records Commission to survey all the records of the state and to make recommendations for their better care. This commission began its work under the chairmanship of Mrs. Hester Dorsey Richardson in June 1905. It conducted a survey by competent persons in twenty-two of the Maryland Counties and in some of the state and municipal offices of Annapolis and Baltimore. Unfortunately, its full report of 2,000 pages, prepared after almost two years of work, has never been found although the chairman stated that it had been deposited in the Land Office. A very condensed report was made to the American Historical Society at its 1905 meeting in Baltimore and a fuller but still much condensed report was printed and submitted to the Governor. The Assembly did not renew its appropriations and the work of the Commission was left unfinished.

A quarter of a century was to pass before anything further was done toward the establishment of a central archives. To be sure, the records were not neglected. The Maryland Historical Society continued its publication program, issuing on the average, one large volume a year. It also initiated a repair and binding program. A useful survey of the records of the counties in the Colonial period was begun during the nineteen-twenties and carried to completion some years later by Louis Dow Scisco. Later, at the time that the Hall of Records was being completed, the WPA began its work of surveying and copying Maryland records.

But the idea of a centralized archival agency had long been in the minds of many Maryland citizens. An opportunity for its realization presented itself in the celebration of the three hundredth anniversary of the landing of the *Ark* and the *Dove* and the founding of the Province.

### TERCENTENARY AND THE HALL OF RECORDS

Preparations for the celebration to be held in 1934 were begun in 1928 when Governor Albert C. Ritchie appointed a Tercentenary Commission. This Commission organized itself immediately, although its legal status was not secured until the Assembly met the following year. At that time this Commission was told to make