

He was aided in this task by the members of the Hall of Records Commission and especially by the late Chief Judge Carroll Taney Bond who was the first chairman of the Commission. The combined efforts of Judge Bond and the Archivist were admittedly disappointing.

Judge Bond was able to persuade the Supreme Bench of Baltimore City to transfer the old Court and Land Records to Annapolis over the protests of many lawyers, court employees and others who were interested in the retention of these records. Th Archivist was able to bring to the Hall of Records the Court and Land Records of Anne Arundel County which had previously been housed in the courthouse only a few squares away. In the latter case the judges of this circuit and the sympathetic Clerk of the court were able to persuade local opponents of this move that the advantages offered by the Hall of Records were sufficient to counterbalance the inconvenience of walking a few hundred yards.

Baltimore and Anne Arundel were therefore exceptions. Efforts to bring in other local records met with total failure. In 1940, five years after the Hall of Records opened its doors, no other county records had been transferred. Since that time we have received all or part of the records of the following Counties: Prince George's, Frederick, Charles, Somerset, and Worcester. Since the passage of Chapter 248, Acts of 1945 making the transfer of county records created before 1788 mandatory, other county records will all be here in Annapolis within the next few years.

In the meantime, the question of whether such local records should be centralized at all has aroused much discussion throughout the country. The basic reason for this discussion is, of course, the fact that since 1935 a good many States have built archival institutions and many others are planning to do so immediately after the end of the war. Whether local records shall be housed in such institutions has enormous bearing on the size of the physical plant, the training of personnel, and the relationship of the institution with the other administrative units of state and local government. It is natural therefore for the question to be posted and at this time. It is timely, moreover, because the destructiveness of modern warfare has shaken