

ACCESSIONS FROM PUBLIC SOURCES

County and State records which came to the Hall of Records this year formed a large and important addition to our holdings. Since the collection and preservation of governmental records is our primary function, we are justified, therefore in marking this year as one of the most successful in the history of the Hall of Records. An examination of the next section of this report will indicate that our collection of related historical materials also continued to grow steadily.

The Anne Arundel County Land Records, listed below, bring this series at the Hall of Records from the beginning of the County through the year 1789. The index is a photostatic copy of the index in the Clerk's office and supplements the index for the earlier period which had previously been photocopied by the Hall of Records.

Baltimore County Court Records, judging by their dates, belonged for the most part in Baltimore City rather than in Towson. Their value will be very little unless at some future time the Court Proceedings or Judgments will also find their way to the Hall of Records. One item, however, has special interest, the "Log of the Barque Commerce for a voyage to Rio de Janiero and return in the year 1846."

Materials transferred from the County Commissioners of Baltimore County are, on the other hand, extremely valuable. The records of the administrative agency of county government are extremely rare in Maryland and even where they exist they are usually unavailable for research. The Baltimore County collection, beginning as it does with the records of the Levy Court, is rich source material for the first half of the nineteenth century. It is especially valuable, moreover, because it is unusually complete. Attention should be called to certain items of special interest not normally found in such a collection: there are several ledgers and day books for Baltimore business houses for this period and there is a fine record of the "Constitution Bye Laws and Minutes of the Union Society of Journeymen Cordwainers of the City and Precincts of Baltimore, 1806-1809." Such records of early labor organizations are extremely rare.