

LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL

August 23, 1945.

TO THE HONORABLE
HALL OF RECORDS COMMISSION,
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND

Gentlemen:

On June 1, 1935, the Land Office moved into the new Memorial Hall of Records. During that summer several State Governmental Agencies at Annapolis transferred their records to the almost empty building. On October 1, Dr. James Alexander Robertson assumed the duties of Archivist, and the Hall of Records, the first State archival agency devoted exclusively to the care of records, was opened. Before his death in 1939, Dr. Robertson had received other records, primarily older records and those of defunct offices which had been housed by the State—until it should have its own depository—in the Maryland Historical Society, the Land Office and the Court of Appeals. Shortly thereafter most of the early court and land records of two counties, Anne Arundel and Baltimore, were transferred.

In the intervening ten years the Hall of Records has received all of the non-current records of the State Government and most of the historical records of five additional counties. With the few exceptions noted elsewhere in this report ("Arrangement") all of this material has been arranged; all of it has been unfolded, boxed and made available for use. A catalogue was compiled and published in 1942, annual reports have been printed each year since 1940, a Calendar of the Black Books was published in 1942, an Index to the Maryland Line in the Confederate Army appeared during the past year. The manuscript of Liber A Prince George's County Court Records, prepared by the staff of the Hall of Records, has been in the hands of the Littleton-Griswold committee of the American Historical Association for the last year, and will be published shortly.

Six mimeographed lists of record and index holdings have been prepared and distributed and many hundreds of thousands