

space for the current records of his office. Evidence of this is seen in the fact that records dating after 1788 were received from several offices.

The red-letter day of the year in regard to accessions was February 8, 1946. On that day, records were received from the offices of the Clerk of the Circuit Court and the Register of Wills of Kent County and from the same offices in Queen Anne's County. The Kent County Court records are especially noteworthy. The Land Records appear to be complete from 1648 to 1790, although only transcripts of some of the earlier volumes are preserved. Some of the early Court Proceedings are missing and there are occasional gaps later on, but the situation was much better than we had expected, for the usually reliable Louis Dow Scisco had reported in his article on "Colonial Records of Kent County" (*Maryland Historical Magazine* XXI, pp. 356-361) that the Court records had "mostly disappeared." Very likely the records were stored in some out-of-the-way place when Scisco visited the County and thus he did not see them.

The transfer of the Land Records of Queen Anne's County was postponed, because our photocopyist is already engaged in copying the Land Records of three other counties. But all the other records of the Clerk's Office through 1788 have been transferred. The Court Proceedings are fairly complete, and like many of the Kent County Court Proceedings are still in their original parchment bindings.

The records received from the Registers of Wills of Kent and Queen Anne's Counties were exceptionally fine and complete, although there are a few gaps in the latter series. These gaps are relatively unimportant since they fall within the period when the Prerogative Court served as the central probate court of the province and duplicated to a large extent the records of each county. Such losses are more than compensated for by the presence of large collections of original papers for each county. The papers contain thousands of signatures and seals and should prove valuable to students of family history.

A similar collection of original probate papers for Baltimore County dating from 1664 to 1788 was delivered to the Hall of Records by the Register of Wills of Baltimore City.