

In Dorchester County the record situation proved less favorable. All of the early records of the Register of Wills were lost in the courthouse fire of 1851, and aside from an apparently complete Deed series, only a few volumes of the Clerk's records for the period up to 1788 have been preserved. All of the material now existing has been transferred to the Hall of Records, except about twenty volumes of Land Records. These will be brought in as soon as we have replaced the land record volumes on hand with photocopies. An interesting and unusual item received among the Dorchester records is the ledger of Robert Morris, the father of the famous Revolutionary financier. Its presence among the public records is explained by the fact that an unused portion in the back of the volume was used as a Fee Book by the Clerk of Court from 1762 to 1763.

The last two volumes of Land Records to be obtained from the Frederick County Clerk's Office were received early in the year and the photocopying program for that County has now been completed. Substantial progress was also made in the program for Charles County. The Land Records are now present up to 1752. About eight more volumes remain to be transferred from La Plata.

Of special interest among the State records received are the Proceedings of the Executive Department from 1912 to 1924 when the series was discontinued, bringing to an end a series which dates back to 1637. It is now felt that modern systems of filing with emphasis on carbon copies of everything make such a record unnecessary.

In former years, it was customary for the Court of Appeals to retain the Engrossed Laws passed at the latest two meetings of the General Assembly. Thus when some one wanted a photocopy of a recent law, it was necessary to send a messenger to the Court of Appeals to borrow the Act and later to return it. The demand for photocopies necessitated many such trips last year. In order to remedy this situation, it was decided that only the laws of the last regular session be retained by the Court of Appeals. In accordance with this decision, the laws of 1943 and the special session of 1944 were transferred to the Hall of Records.

Items belonging to the State continued to turn up in the vaults of the Maryland Historical Society, which had custody of many of