

O'Connor's two terms of office. Negotiations for transfer of this material were initiated by the Archivist several months before the new Governor was to take office. Governor O'Connor cooperated to the fullest extent. After removing the papers which were of purely personal interest, he agreed to allow everything else to remain in the custody of the State. The papers relating to the last biennium of his administration were retained at the State House and the rest transferred to the Hall of Records. The material is especially valuable since it gives an excellent picture of the activities of the State during World War II. Equally important is the fact that precedent has been established for the quick transfer of Executive files, which it is hoped will be followed by future governors of the State.

The largest accession of county records came from the Talbot County Circuit Court. A number of the records were badly damaged by mildew and mold as the result of having been stored in a damp basement room in the courthouse. Several years ago, the volume records were removed to the attic and placed on wooden shelves by HRS workers, but the damage had already been done. A good many of the volumes will require extensive repair, while others have been so badly damaged that the only hope of saving the record is the application of special photographic techniques, such as infra-red photography. Two or three volumes may be beyond saving by any means.

The Charles County Land Records up to 1790 have now been transferred to the Hall of Records and photocopied, thus completing our program in that county. In Dorchester and Queen Anne's Counties we are slightly more than halfway through, and in Talbot County we have just begun. We have also acquired indexes to land records of the three counties last named. The Talbot index is one which was transcribed and discarded. We have repaired it and placed it in service in our Index Room. The indexes for Dorchester and Queen Anne's Counties are photostatic copies of those now in use at the courthouses.

Other important transfers of county records included the original papers dating to 1788 from the offices of the Registers