

are refused for deposit by the Hall of Records. Faced with such an alternative we had no choice but to accept these records, even though we realize that eventually they may require an undue proportion of our stack space.

As usual, a number of valuable items were received from private or semi-private sources. The most useful from the archival viewpoint are the records deposited by the Evangelical Reformed Church of Frederick. The vital records of Maryland have been very poorly kept until recently and very often church records represent the only possible source of such information. We hope that other custodians of church records will deposit them in the Hall of Records or give us permission to make photographic copies.

The original minute book of the South River Club, whose whereabouts were unknown last year when the photostatic copy was deposited with us, has now been located. Together with the original deed to the clubhouse property, it has been placed with the other records of the Club in our vaults.

The Johns family papers deposited by Mr. William F. Kelly relate mainly to Kensey Johns who was actively engaged in the tobacco shipping business and also served as Sheriff of Anne Arundel County. These papers were found in "Sudley" which has been purchased and restored by the donor.

Permission to photocopy a fine water color of Church Circle in Annapolis, executed in 1794, was given us by the owners, Dr. and Mrs. Ford K. Brown. In the course of our study of this water color, we learned that Professor Henry F. Sturdy possessed a photocopy of an almost identical picture located in the New York Public Library. Professor Sturdy permitted us to photocopy his copy.

The letters of David Ridgely, who was the first State Librarian, list the records located in several of the public offices in Annapolis in 1835 and will be of great value to persons interested in the history of the archives of Maryland. Matthew St. Clair Clarke, to whom the letters were addressed, was an agent of Colonel Peter Force, who was responsible for the well known Force *Tracts* and *Archives*. These letters were purchased during the year.