

County land records whenever her other duties permit. The land records of Calvert County were filmed by a member of our staff who visited the County with a portable camera.

The several odd items of recent county records, such as chattel mortgages, equity records and corporation records came to us as by-products of the projection print method of recording used in many of our counties. The Hall & McChesney Company which makes the prints sends us the film from which they are made after it has served this purpose.

When we were called upon two years ago to consult with the Register of Wills of Montgomery County in a general study of the recordkeeping practices of that office, one of the more pressing problems was the proper disposition of the old records. Last year the Register solved the problem and also gained much-needed storage space by transferring to our custody the records predating the middle of the nineteenth century. The records of this period were kept in two series. One contains the minutes of the Orphans' Court and the other, entitled "Records" or "Record Books," is comprised of wills, inventories, accounts and the sundry other instruments recorded by the Court. We have furnished microfilm copies to replace these records.

Other originals acquired were the marriage license records of Talbot County for the years 1794-1886 and of Cecil County for 1840-1886. The accession from Cecil County also included eleven small volumes containing returns by the justices of the peace of the names of persons who had subscribed to the Oath of Fidelity in 1778.

Microfilm also made it possible for us to collect church records on a scale far beyond our highest expectations. The records of forty-three Protestant Episcopal parishes and churches and six Quaker meetings were acquired. Of the total of 171 volumes only thirty-three were originals, the remaining 138 were on microfilm. Many of the vestries are still considering the possibility of depositing their original records in our custody and they would be willing to receive microfilm in return if a reader were available locally. We wish to express our appreciation to the many ministers, rectors, vestries and other church officials who cooperated with us in this project, and especially to thank the Maryland Diocesan Library Committee for permitting us to film the church records in its custody.

Emphasis has been placed on the collection of the records of Protestant Episcopal churches because this was the established church of the Province from 1692 to the end of the colonial period. Unfortunately, there have been serious losses in the records of some parishes. Fairly complete sets of parish registers have been obtained, however, for St. George's Parish in Harford