

Theodore Roosevelt McKeldin for the biennium 1953-1954. This means we now have all of the papers relating to Governor McKeldin's first term of office.

The papers deposited by the Adjutant General relate to routine military matters except for one group of fascinating eyewitness reports of militia officers who were on duty during the Baltimore fire of 1904.

Our program for obtaining security copies of the land records for the period 1851-1949 has been described in previous reports. It is producing large quantities of microfilm and now accounts for the greater part of our accessions. From Baltimore City alone we received microfilm copies of 643 volumes of Block Books, which serve as a key to the Land Records. The decision to film the Block Books before doing the Land Records was made by the late M. Luther Pittman, Clerk of the Superior Court, who reasoned that there were no security copies of the Block Books whereas the Land Records are protected to some extent by the handwritten abstracts now in the Land Office.

Over 200 volumes of Anne Arundel County Land Records were filmed last year by our own operator bringing this series up to the year 1924. Mr. George L. Byerly, Clerk of the Circuit Court of Baltimore County, delivered us 106 volumes of Land Records on microfilm. This series is now complete to 1908. The film copies of the 75 volumes of Caroline County Land Records sent us by Mr. D. Ralph Horsey, Clerk of the Circuit Court, cover the entire period 1851-1949. This means that Caroline along with Calvert County has its land records completely protected by security copies.

It should be mentioned also that the twenty volumes of Prince George's County Land Records listed below represent a very small percentage of the microfilm delivered to us by Mr. W. Waverly Webb, Clerk of the Circuit Court. The total was approximately 500 volumes. Unfortunately, this flood of microfilm coming toward the end of the fiscal year caused us to fall behind in checking. In our *Annual Report* we list only the microfilm which has been checked and accessioned and is ready for use.

As the land records for the various counties come into our custody, it becomes necessary to provide indexes. Through the cooperation of Mr. Harry L. Harcum, Commissioner of the Land Office, and his Administrative Assistant, Mr. Malcolm W. Waring, who loaned us the negative reels, we acquired positive microfilm copies of the current indexes to the land records of Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Prince George's, Queen Anne's and Talbot Counties as listed below.

Most of our effort in collecting church records has been concentrated on