

played a prominent part in Maryland history. Col. James Hollyday (1722-1786) served as a member of the Convention of Maryland and the Council of Safety. A contemporary printed copy of the Constitution of 1776 that belonged to him is included in the collection. Col. Richard Carmichael Hollyday (1810-1885) served as Secretary of State under six different Governors of Maryland. He was also Clerk of Court for Cecil County, 1849-1851, and a member of the Constitutional Convention of 1867. About a third of the collection is comprised of documents relating to the titles of various lands owned by the family. A number of other items pertain to the genealogy of the family. The remainder of the collection includes a variety of items, ranging from several interesting letters of the 1760's discussing the Stamp Act to such trivia as recipes for "Apple Toddy" or for "Terrapin à la Maryland."

Mr. George Martin, who has manifested a continuing interest in the Hall of Records, presented us with two reels of microfilm containing muster rolls of a number of Maryland regiments and companies for the period of the Revolutionary War. The originals are at the National Archives.

Through the courtesy of Mrs. John T. Lanning, we were permitted to photocopy a fascinating letter written by Benjamin Farquhar to David Shriver and the other members of the Frederick County delegation to the General Assembly in 1802. He explains that he had refused to qualify for his appointment as a justice of the peace and levy court because, as a Quaker, his conscience would not permit him to administer oaths to other persons any more than it would permit him to take one himself. His comments are as valid today as they were then and in one incisive sentence he points out the fallacy behind the idea of requiring special oaths to assure truthfulness when he asserts "that any person that would give a fals [sic] witness in a serious manner would make oath of it."

The diary of James Ridgaway that was loaned us for microfilming by Mrs. Howard A. Keith provides an interesting insight into the life of a Methodist circuit rider in the early 1800's.