

PROBATE RECORDS MICROFILM PROJECT

In my last report I pointed out that we had finished our work with the county land records, having prepared microfilm copies through the year 1949. The terminal date was fixed because 1949 was the year the General Assembly passed the act requiring clerks of court to record conveyances by microfilm and to deposit the film in the Land Office. There are now in Annapolis microfilm copies of all the extant deeds of the counties of Maryland. For Baltimore City, unfortunately, there are copies only through 1925, but this part of the work is organized as a project of the Superior Court of Baltimore City and will be completed in a few years.

The probate records of the State are less well protected. For the Colonial period, there was a central probate office in Annapolis with deputies in the counties. For the most part, therefore, the colonial records exist in duplicate. They are further protected by microfilm copies at the headquarters of the Genealogical Society of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints in Salt Lake City, Utah, and at the Hall of Records. The period from the Revolution to 1851 was filmed by this Society and a copy of this film was likewise deposited at the Hall of Records. This left the records from 1851 to the present totally unprotected.

We have now started to remedy this unsafe condition. And during this year, when our microfilm operator was able to devote full time to it, we were able to accomplish a great deal. The terminal date for all these series is not fixed so that the project will be a continuing one. At present we finish in a county office when the last completed book of the series is filmed. This will explain the diverse terminal dates which you will find here below.

Filmed During Fiscal Year 1964-1965

ALLEGANY COUNTY

Orphans' Court Proceedings	1954-1963
Wills	1953-1963
Inventories, Personal	1889-1962
Administrative Accounts	1875-1961

CECIL COUNTY

Wills	1961-1964
Inventories, Personal	1855-1965
Administration & Guardian Accounts	1854-1962

FREDERICK COUNTY

Orphans' Court Proceedings	1952-1963
Wills	1948-1963
Inventories, Personal	1851-1963
Administration Accounts	1853-1963