

LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL

August 15, 1946.

TO THE HONORABLE
HALL OF RECORDS COMMISSION,
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND

Gentlemen:

The past year has been one of the most productive in the history of the Hall of Records. The pages which follow will give ample evidence of this judgment. They will show that every department, and in our case that means every employee, contributed in full measure to this good record. During the course of the year the Hall of Records has sent two books to the publisher. We have exceeded any previous year in the amount of photostating of land records done for the counties; our repair room has again exceeded its best past efforts; we have been of more assistance to other State offices; we have given more service than ever before to individuals in need of our records.

It is with a good conscience, therefore, that I submit to you this *Eleventh Annual Report of the Archivist of the Hall of Records*. But I should be delinquent in my duty if I did not emphasize that, more than almost any other office of the State Government, the Hall of Records is dependent for the quality and quantity of its work on the experience of its personnel. The Archivist has never been able—as have institutions of this kind in other states—to seek out and employ the best-trained persons in this field. The reluctance of the State Government to pay professional salaries to the Hall of Records staff has made it necessary to find talented and responsible people and to train them on the job. Last year we were very fortunate in having a staff which for the most part had two or more years of training. The coming year will find us almost entirely stripped of our experienced workers.

In addition to the resignations of Miss Ruth Vermillion, Miss Agnes Howard, and Dr. Elisabeth Hartsook, which are recorded in the section of this report entitled "Staff," I wish to call to your attention the resignation of Mrs. Louise Hall Pledger which has already occurred at this writing and that of Miss Lulu V. Ebaugh