

rather than discarding their records or storing them in basements or attics, which often means that the records are just a short step removed from destruction.

The problem of space and the fact that the original records were showing signs of deterioration led the Clerk of the Circuit Court for Dorchester County to send us his Land Records, dating from 1788 to 1875, and to accept in return microfilm copies which we provided. The earlier Land Records had been replaced with photostatic copies some years ago, and they were not involved in this transfer. Similar factors influenced the Clerk of Court of Anne Arundel County in transferring to our custody his Land Records from 1788 to 1885. Our offer of microfilm copies was declined by the Clerk, who has not deemed it worthwhile to purchase a microfilm reader when the records are available at the Hall of Records, only a block from the courthouse. It was mainly the crowded condition of his record vault that caused the Clerk of the Circuit Court of Washington County to offer us his early Judgment Records. They date from 1782 to 1901 and are the finest set of county court judgments we have for that period. Another welcome acquisition is the record of marriage licenses issued in Washington County from 1799 to 1886.

We also acquired the Talbot County Marriage License Records for the years 1794-1799, 1801-1839. In the same accession we received an interesting volume containing a plat and certificate of survey of the bounds of the Town of Easton as laid out in 1808 and a certificate of survey of the Town of St. Michael's as laid out in 1806. The latter was not recorded until 1821. The reverse of this volume was utilized for recording Criminal Judgments from 1842 to 1857.

During the course of a combined archival-records management visit to the office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court of Kent County, we not only transferred certain records which were considered to have permanent value to our stacks, but we also established retention schedules which made additional much-needed shelf space available. Among the records transferred were the Marriage License Records, covering the years 1796-1802, 1815-1886. Another such dual purpose visit to the office of the County Commissioners of Dorchester County resulted in the transfer of the Commissioners' Proceedings from 1852 to 1913. Also included was a parchment plat of Cambridge with a sketch of the Courthouse made in 1853. It seems likely that this will be a typical pattern of operation in the future.

A request to the Comptroller of the Treasury by the Register of Wills of Baltimore City for permission to spend nearly \$8,000 for additional shelving was referred to us for advice. A visit to the Register's office disclosed that the shelving was to be used to house certain records, which had been stored in the basement during the recent renovation of the Courthouse, but which the Register now wished to return to his office. We proposed that he transfer to our