

deposited with us in the course of the last two years by Mrs. James N. Gallo-way and Mrs. Frederick G. Richards. Last year, 303 items were added to the 261 items already present. The collection deals mainly with John Ridout and his family, but includes letters by Cecilius Calvert, Governor Horatio Sharpe, Charles Mason and Jeremiah Dixon, and others. It also contains references to many prominent Marylanders, such as Daniel Dulany, Jeremiah Townley Chase, Charles Willson Peale, William Pinkney and Benjamin Tasker. At present this collection is restricted and may be seen only by special permission of the depositors.

The Mercer Family Papers, deposited by Mr. Frank L. Pinney, contain considerable genealogical information regarding this distinguished family which numbers among others, John Francis Mercer, Governor of Maryland from 1801 to 1803. Of particular interest is a series of fifteen letters written by Mary Swann Mercer giving the female viewpoint on events of the Civil War. In one letter, she quotes a Southern soldier as saying "before they take Richmond the Yankees will have to wade up to their waists in blood, and when they kill all the men the women will fight them."

The Brooke Papers, comprising over a thousand items, are interesting from a different viewpoint. The focus of attention here is on the many-sided business transactions of a single prominent Maryland family with large holdings of land. They are the joint deposit of Miss Margaret Brooke, Mrs. Robert H. Henderson and Mrs. Charles G. Tumbleson.

Through the generosity of Mr. Arthur T. Elliott and Miss Elizabeth V. Davis, administrators of the estate of Mrs. Elizabeth V. Davis, we received an almost complete file of the *Maryland Republican* for the years 1836-1852, and several records kept by the publishers of the newspaper, an Annapolis weekly. Mrs. Davis, until her recent death, resided in the so-called Carroll-Davis House, which has been so much in the local limelight recently, by virtue of the fact that it has been moved from its original site on Main Street, where it stood for over 200 years, to its present location on the St. John's College campus.

In cases where the owner was unwilling to part with an original document, we have sought permission to make photocopies. Through the generosity of Mr. and Mrs. Orlando Ridout IV, we were permitted to make a microfilm copy of an index they had prepared of the Parish Register of St. Margaret's P. E. Church of Westminster Parish in Anne Arundel County for the years 1699-1885. Mr. Ridout was also instrumental in locating and obtaining for us permission to microfilm the Account Book of Robert Pinkney, an Annapolis tailor, who numbered many of the most important citizens of the City among his clients. The original is owned by the Carroll County Historical Society. Mr. J. Reaney Kelly, who deserves our gratitude for unearthing interesting manuscripts in the past, among them the Mercer Family Papers, brought to our attention the diary of John Sellman. It gives a good picture of the