

The transfer of the correspondence of Governor Theodore R. McKeldin for the biennium 1957-1958 means that all of Governor McKeldin's papers are now in our custody.

Although it did not acquire representation in the Legislature until it was created a county by the Constitution of 1851, the Howard District of Anne Arundel was established by an Act of Assembly passed in 1839 as a separate political unit, in every other respect the equivalent of a county. As a result, many of the record series acquired from the Howard County Circuit Court last year begin in 1840. Among the records transferred are the Court Proceedings which lack only a few years of being complete to 1933. The Commission records and Test Books are also virtually complete. The license records, usually of little importance, are of interest in Howard County because they include the marriage licenses, which are customarily listed separately.

From Worcester County we acquired three volumes of early Marriage License records and two volumes recording the Incorporation of Churches. We also received three volumes recording births and deaths from 1898 to 1906. Any vital records predating 1914 are especially useful because the State Health Department did not begin collecting such records systematically until that date.

The old records transferred by the Montgomery County Department of Finance were discovered in the course of a survey of the Department's records by our Records Management Division. The Levy Books date back almost to the beginning of the County. Unfortunately, much of this series is still missing.

Our program for preparing security copies of the county land records is described in detail elsewhere in this report. We need mention here only that last year film copies of the land records of Harford and Washington Counties were acquired and that copies of nearly a thousand volumes of Baltimore City land records were added to those already on hand, bringing this series up to 1893.

Although we were not so active in collecting church records as in previous years, we did add more than a hundred items to our holdings of such materials, most of them microfilm. One of the originals deposited was the Minutes of the Trustees of Washington Chapel, 1800-