

Of the land records, only those of Baltimore City remain to be done. Although 416 volumes were filmed last year, the project advanced only about three years to 1927. At this rate, it will be several years before the existing gap between 1927 and 1949 is filled.

The filming of the probate records has been completed for every county and over 200 volumes have been filmed of the records of the Register of Wills of Baltimore City. It will probably take most of the current fiscal year to do the remaining records.

We have also been filming the early marriage records with the purpose of supplementing those of the State Health Department, which began collecting vital records on a systematic basis in 1914. During the past year we added the marriage records of Caroline, Carroll, Washington, Wicomico and Worcester Counties to our collection. This leaves only Baltimore and Montgomery Counties and Baltimore City to be done.

Influenced by a constant demand for information about corporation charters, we have decided to add these records to the list of items to be filmed as we go from county to county. Last year the corporation records of Caroline, Dorchester, Wicomico and Worcester were filmed, in each case, to a date well beyond 1916 when the Department of Assessments and Taxation (then the State Tax Commission) began preserving such records.

In our previous report, we listed the acquisition of 80 volumes of Anne Arundel County Equity Records on microfilm. Unfortunately a typographical error escaped our attention and the period covered was given as "1951-1963"; whereas the series actually begins in 1851. The filming, which is being done by the staff of the Clerk of the Circuit Court, has now been brought up to date. In fact, beginning in 1965, the Clerk discontinued the practice of recording equity cases in bound volumes and began recording the original papers directly on microfilm. A positive print is made for use in the Clerk's Office and the negative is deposited with us.

Other counties have also indicated an interest in doing something to protect their equity records from further damage or loss. These records are often very useful in searching land titles and tracing family history and for other research purposes, so we are encouraging the counties to film them whenever facilities are available. We shall probably have our own photographers do some of the filming when our other projects have been brought up to date.