

LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL

July 25, 1944.

TO THE HONORABLE

HALL OF RECORDS COMMISSION,

ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND

Gentlemen:

In several respects the last year was a notable one for the Hall of Records. Perhaps the most significant event, at least for the staff, was the adoption of the Standard Salary Plan for all State Employees. The immediate effect insofar as the Hall of Records is concerned was a general rise in the salary scale which did much to alleviate the hardship caused by fixed low salaries and a rising cost of living. The long-term effect is already beginning to be felt. The prospect of future increases has served to discourage the large turnover of the last few years. Only one member of the staff left the Hall of Records during the year as compared with three or four for each previous year since our entrance into the war.

After a lapse of more than two years, the Hall of Records Commission met during the fiscal year, and after electing Judge Ogle Marbury chairman in the place of the late Judge Carroll T. Bond, a vice-chairman was chosen and other measures adopted to facilitate collaboration of the Hall of Records Commission and the Archivist. The proceedings of the meeting of the Commission will be found given in full elsewhere in this report. It is fitting here, however, to say that the Hall of Records lost a good friend and an enthusiastic Maryland antiquarian in the retirement from the Court of Appeals and consequently from the Hall of Records Commission, of Judge D. Lindley Sloan of Cumberland.

During the year the manuscript transcription of the Prince George's County Court Records was completed, and should conditions permit, this volume will be published during the course of the present year. *The Eighth Annual Report of the Archivist* covering the fiscal year 1943 was published and distributed during the past winter. Our other steps toward making the records more available will be detailed in another part of this report entitled "Aids to Research."