

For the Record

Maryland's Records Management Newsletter

The Purpose of the Maryland State Archives

October is American Archives Month, but what is the purpose of a state archives? State, county, and local government agencies generate an enormous amount of records. Most of this material has value only for a limited amount of time and can ultimately be destroyed. However a small portion of these records have such lasting value that they should never be lost. The Maryland State Archives is the repository for these permanent records. In addition to government records, the Maryland State Archives also collects non-government material that relates to the history of the State such as church records, newspapers, and the personal papers of prominent citizens.

Why does the State Archives preserve these records? Records document the lives of our people, the governments they create, and the rights they enjoy. They tell of our struggles, triumphs, and failures. They define who we are as a society. The Maryland State Archives is the place where these permanently valuable records are preserved and made accessible over time. The Maryland State Archives collects the records that make transparent government possible, preserves the evidence protecting individual and property rights, and protects Maryland's most essential records from natural and man-made disasters.

To learn more about the Maryland State Archives and the services that we offer, check out our website at <http://msa.maryland.gov/> or visit us at 350 Rowe Boulevard, in Annapolis.

Maryland State Archivist Edward C. Papenfuse to Retire

Dr. Edward C. Papenfuse, Maryland state archivist and commissioner of land patents since 1975, will retire from state service effective November 1. Dr. Papenfuse began his career at the Archives in 1973 and has been state archivist and commissioner of land patents since 1975. During his time as state archivist, Dr. Papenfuse has taken the lead among state archives and other historical institutions in digitizing public records and making them available on-line. Dr. Papenfuse is also a noted historian who has spoken and published widely on Maryland history and politics.

"Dr. Papenfuse has long been an outstanding and essential partner in telling the story of our One Maryland," said Governor Martin O'Malley. "We've been blessed to have someone of Ed's knowledge, passion and commitment as our State's archivist and commissioner of land patents for almost four decades. On behalf of the people of Maryland, we wish him well in his future endeavors and with his wisdom, we will always remember to tell our collective story - a story of resiliency, diversity, dignity and strength that is the blueprint for our great State."



*In the market to have
your permanent
records digitized?*

Contact us at
410-260-6467
to find out more about the
scanning and online access
services that we offer.

Questions? Suggestions? Contact
Kathryn Baringer at 410-260-6467 or
msa.helpdesk@maryland.gov

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