

bly of this Province in that Case made and Provided, That then, and in such Case, the aforesaid County-Court of Baltimore is and stands hereby adjourned from the appointed Day in June, until such a Day in August following, as such Court ought to have been adjourned to; and that the said County-Court of Talbot be and stands hereby adjourned until the last Tuesday in July next, any Law, Statute or Custom to the contrary, notwithstanding.

Session
Laws

An Act for ascertaining the Bounds of Land within this Province.

1718
Chap.
XVIII
[Evan
Jones' com-
pilation
printed by
Bradford,
1718, p. 206;
the Pro-
prietary
dissented to
this Act]

Forasmuch as at the first Settlement of this Province the Heathen Indian Enemies were so very Numerous and barbarous, that both the Persons desirous to purchase Land, and to settle and Inhabit the same, and also the Surveyors appointed by the Right Honourable the Lord proprietary to survey and lay out such Lands to the said Persons, were detained from making so strict a scrutiny into the true Scituation of the several Rivers, Creeks and Branches of this Bay, so as to prevent the Interference of the Bounds limited and appointed by the said Surveyors, for each Tract, and from setting of the Courses or Measuring the true Distances of Lines directed to run to the several Trees or other Bounds there prescribed to limit and bound the said several Tracts of Land, and also the Surveyors themselves so appointed, were too often both very Ignorant and negligent in performing their Duty therein; And also forasmuch as the bounded Trees by them formerly bounded, for very many of the said former Surveyors, are dead, and so far lost and forgotten, that no remains or Memory are left of the same, and the other Boundaries, either of Bays, Rivers, Creeks or Branches, as also of Courses and Distances, so darkly and Unskilfully exprest, that many great Controversies and suits have been and are daily moved thereupon, and no certain Method, as yet, being prescribed for the speedy determination thereof, but a Course at Common Law, and Tryal by Juries in the Provincial Court, which Juries never having had any View of the Lands in debate, so as to be made sensible of the true Scituation of them (whereby the true Intent and Meaning of the dark and Unskilful Expressions of the aforesaid Surveyors are the better to be understood) cannot possibly give a just Verdict thereupon, which Occasions most common and frequent Appeals to the superior Courts, and vast additional Charges thereby accruing, Insupportable to the Inhabitants of this Province, especially the Poorer Sort, who are thereby frequently ruined or very much Impoverished, and many times forced to relinquish and give up their just-Right to their more Potent Litigious Adversaries, rather than suffer the loss of Time, fatigue and expence of a long Journey, and a longer and more tedious Attendance. And forasmuch as the Multitude of Cases Varying in their several Circumstances will not admit of any General Rule to be prescribed, whereby the Court and jury may adjudge