

delayed the actual taking out of their patents to escape these charges. To prevent this loss of revenue the Proprietary had at various times issued proclamations ordering that those who failed to take out patents do so at once. At the October, 1666, session, and again two years later, sheriffs were ordered to make returns as to the issuance of these proclamations (pp. 120, 304-305).

At the June, 1667, court, Ann, the widow of John Marcomb of Somerset County, presented a petition to the court to the effect that prior to her husband's death there had been issued to him a certificate of survey for four hundred acres of land, under the name of Marcomb's Lott, but as he had died before the patent had been issued, the land had escheated to the Proprietary; and as her husband's debts were so large "his Estate will not Extend to th^e satisfacōn of his ingagem^{ts} whereby your petiōner is left a very poore widd", she implored the court to issue a patent to her, and concluded her plea with two lines of verse:

Prosperity & peace may always him attend
That to th^e widdow prove himselfe a freind

Her prayer was favorably answered (p. 207).

The court showed great leniency to an offender in the case of a patent which had been "surreptitiously" obtained for 200 acres of land on St. Leonard's Creek, St. Mary's County. At the June, 1669, court it was revealed that Edward Good of Calvert County included this tract, which really belonged to another, in a patent for a larger tract that he had recently taken out. When John Hollis proved to the court that he had previously been given a patent for part of this same land, the court ordered that Hollis should continue to hold the land within the lines as given him in his original patent, but that Good might have what land, if any, lay within the bounds of his patent, outside the limits of the Hollis lands (p. 452).

Six years after the death of John Hatton, a bachelor of Anne Arundel County, alledged to have died without heirs, Henry Stockett of Anne Arundel County petitioned the court at its December, 1668, session that certain lands owned by Hatton be declared escheated to the Proprietary and that a patent for them be issued to him. These lands, all of which lay in what was then Baltimore County, were Hermar's Mount, 350 acres, Sprye's Hill, 600 acres, both on the Sassafras River, and a tract of 400 acres on Rumley Creek. The sheriffs of Baltimore and Anne Arundel counties were ordered by the court to enquire whether there were any relations of the deceased, and if he had no relations, to enquire why the old patents should not be vacated (pp. 392-394). Thomas Stockett, the sheriff of Anne Arundel County and a brother of the petitioner, reported at the February, 1668/9, session that he could find no person to appear for Hatton, but the court did not deem this return sufficient, and ordered a fuller enquiry (p. 423). At the June, 1669, session the sheriffs of both Baltimore and Anne Arundel counties made reports that no heirs could be found (p. 458). A deed, recorded sometime later in the Baltimore County Court records, showed, however, that Hatton had brothers living in England who claimed and obtained legal possession of those lands and afterwards disposed of them.