

In August, 1695, it was ordered by the Governor and Council that:

The Commissioners of Saint Maries, Kent, Calvert and Talbot and Charles Counties (being Counties by Act of Assembly lately divided) take special care to see all Business in their Severall Courts depending fully compleated and ended in March Court next to be held within their said Respective Counties; And that the appearances taken that Court be by the Clerks of the said Counties (where taken) transmitted to be tryed within the Jurisdiction of such Court as the parties defendants do actually live and Reside in according to division of the same made and that after the said March Court all Writs precepts and process issue out of the proper Courts lying within the limits and Jurisdiction of the aforesaid late divided Counties and the New made County called Prince Georges County, pursuant to division of the same by Act of Assembly made as aforesaid.⁴

Pursuant to the above order a number of causes pending in the Calvert County Court were later transmitted for trial in Prince Georges County; none appear to have been transmitted from Charles County Court.⁵

On March 3, 1695/6 Colonel John Addison, a member of the Council and probably the most distinguished resident of the area designated to constitute the new county, presented a list of military and civil officers for Prince Georges County, including eight "Justices of the County", four being of the quorum. The Council records show that:

The same was Approved off and Ordered that the persons therein named for Justices of the said County be Commissionated accordingly, and that pursuant thereto a Commission of the peace and for Tryall of Causes issue forth of the Secretaries Office, according to the form of the other County Commissions, and that Mr. William Cooper be therein constituted Clerk of the said Court, according to former Order of this Board, and that Mr. Thomas Greenfield be Commissionated Sherriff of the said County, who are all to Meet and sit to hold Court at Mount Calvert the 23th day of April next, being the time directed for the Act to take place, and further that power be given in the Dedimus for to administer the Oaths appointed by Act of Parliament to be taken instead of the Oaths of Allegiance and Supremacy, as well unto the severall Officers of the said Court admitted, as to the Justices aforesaid and that they be all obliged to subscribe to the Test.⁶

On April 22, 1696, Governor Nicholson issued a commission to Thomas Holliday and seven other justices or commissioners to hold the County Court for Prince

County of land grants made prior to the date of the establishment of the county, confirms the drainage line hypothesis. All the grants designated as Charles County lands when made (approximately 215) are within the Potomac drainage area; all those designated as Calvert County lands when made (approximately 280) are within the Patuxent drainage area. Berkley appears to take the view that all the hundreds of Prince Georges County, except New Scotland, were originally hundreds of Calvert County. *Old Charles, Calvert, New Charles and Prince George's Counties*, 29 MHM 237, 244 (1934). For a view consistent with that of Mathews see Keuthe, *A Gazetteer of Maryland, A. D. 1673*, 30 MHM 310, 312 (1935). The position taken by Karinen (*op. cit. supra*) is not clear. 54 MHM 402-03.

4. 20 MA 282-83. See also the order requiring a return from the commissioners of the several county courts. 20 *id.* 330. On March 4, 1695/6 it was again ordered in Council "that the Justices of the late divided Counties take Care (pursuant to former Order from this Board) that they omit not to thoroughly finish all Business in their severall Courts depending, this present March Court." 20 *id.* 396.

5. See subject matter index hereto *sub* Calvert County Court, causes transmitted from.

6. 20 MA 379-80. See also the opinion of the law officers that "for prevention of inconyeniency and for the better administring of Justice, it would be requisite that the Commission to all Officers Judicial and Ministeriall should be made to take Effect at that time [April 23, 1696], in the new Erected County." 20 *id.* 380.