

of the period covered by the *Liber*, receiving an allowance in the county levies of 1200 pounds of tobacco per annum. Upon his death Simon Nicholls assumed the position, taking the oaths appointed by act of Parliament at the August 1699 court. Anthony Smart appears as drummer in two of the levies set forth in the *Liber* but no drummer is listed in the third levy entered at the October 1699 court. These officials never gain substance from the pages of the *Liber*. However, some evidence of the part played by the crier appears from the fact that in the statutory schedules of fees the crier received fees for swearing juries and witnesses, for special bail ordered in court, for good behaviors ordered in court, and for clearing prisoners by order of the court and proclamation.⁴⁷ Aside from the several levies, there is only one mention of Joyce; a fine imposed for non-attendance at the November 1698 court, the fine being remitted upon presenting satisfactory reasons for his absence. Reference to a bailiff appears in a 1699 statutory schedule of fees but the office does not appear in the *Liber*.⁴⁸

The *Liber* contains a resolution, dated June 11, 1697, of the House of Delegates that the minister or ministers resident within each county should attend at the court-house and read prayer each morning during court sessions before the court was called or the commissioners proceeded to any business, but there is no indication in the *Liber* that this resolution was observed.⁴⁹ That it was not a dead letter appears from entries in the county court records of neighboring Charles County showing allowances in the county levies of 80 pounds of tobacco per day of attendance to George Tubman, the Anglican minister for Port Tobacco Parish and perhaps other parishes in Charles County and for Piscattoway Parish in Prince Georges.⁵⁰

Sheriff

The principal administrative officer of the county was the sheriff. As to this office, Nicholson stated: "The Sheriff's being a place of profit is given to those who have done his Majesty service in the House and to encourage others to do the same." The first sheriff of Prince Georges County was Thomas Greenfield, appointed during pleasure by Governor Nicholson by virtue of a commission dated April 22, 1696. This appointment disqualified Greenfield from continuing to sit as a member of the House of Burgesses. Before taking office Greenfield was to take the oath appointed by act of Parliament, instead of the oaths of allegiance and supremacy, as also the oath of sheriff, subscribe to the Test and give bond for the due execution of the office of sheriff according to law. The *dedimus potestatem* and *posse comitatus* of equal date were to remain in force during the continuance of the commission.⁵¹ In June 1697 new commissions were ordered to issue for each county "Constituteing the present sherriff of the said Severall Counties with full power to Act and be Continued in their respective Offices and places for the next Year

47. *Infra* 13-14, 53, 279, 522, 614; 13 *MA* 511; 22 *id.* 579. For the rationale employed in fixing the crier's fees see 13 *id.* 308-09.

48. *Infra* 402; 22 *MA* 579.

49. *Infra* 214. See also 19 *MA* 532, 545, 582.

50. CCCR, *Liber V*, No. 1 (1696-98) 294; *id.*, *Liber X*, No. 1 (1698-99) 246; *Piscattoway Parish Minutes, 1693/4-1794*, 3; Weis, *The Colonial Clergy of Maryland, Delaware and Georgia* 67 (1950); Thompson, *Early Maryland Clergy*, 5 *MHM* 290 (1910); Rightmyer, *The Character of the Anglican Clergy of Colonial Maryland*, 44 *id.* 229, 234, 246 (1949); Skirven, *The First Parishes of the Province of Maryland* 132-36 (1923).

51. *Infra* 2-4; 19 *MA* 330; *CSP, Col., 1696-97*, No. 864. In 1694 Greenfield was a commissioner and one of the coroners of Calvert County. He was commissioned a justice of the Provincial Court c.1701; in 1707 he became a member of the Council. He died in 1715 leaving a large estate.