

methods of government; and although they were only a few people settled on the edge of a far-distant continent, and there were not many leaders to perform the work, governmental institutions of the same character and names as those elaborated at home soon appeared among them, and the familiar departments of the law and the administration of justice were established, even though this made just so many parts to be played by the same judges. In the original charter of the province, the Lord Proprietor was entrusted by the King with full power to provide for the administration of justice, and he, in his turn, committed the function to the Governor and Council. The early governors were, in their commissions, empowered to act as Chief Justice, Chancellor and Admiral, and the members of the Council were made associate justices. Until 1649, the legislative assembly acted as a law court of the freeman, and tried cases of various kinds, and in that year, 1649, was divided into an Upper House of the Governor and Council, and a Lower House, or House of Burgesses; and after the division, the Lower House became restricted in its judicial activities to minor matters, while the Governor and Council, as the Upper House, developed a jurisdiction on appeal, and ultimately became the Court of Appeals of the province.

By the year 1638 the Governor, as chief justice, and the members of his Council, as associate justices, had begun to hold at St. Mary's a general court of the province, called at first the County Court, but after 1642 termed the Provincial