

the said Twenty third day of Aprill next Ensueing being St. George's Day as aforesaid have and enjoy all other Rights benefitts and priviledges Equall with the other Countys of this Province such as sending Burgesses to Assemblys haveing County Courts Sherriffe Justices and other Officers and Ministers requisite & necessary and as used in other Countys of this Province."

At the time Prince George's County was erected there were settlements along the Patuxent nearly up to Laurel but there were few if any settlements on the Potomac side in the vicinity of Piscataway Creek on account of the presence of the friendly Indians, who had reserved to themselves this territory for a permanent abode. There were, however, settlements or small outposts at the mouth of Rock Creek within the present limits of Georgetown and along the Anacostia River in the vicinity of Hyattsville and Bladensburg, and as far up the Northwest Branch as the present Montgomery line.

Within the next two decades these settlements had extended beyond the present limits of Prince George's County although they were at that time within its limits. During these same years the whites began to settle on the territory formerly claimed by the Indians, who ultimately left the Europeans in undisputed possession.

The first curtailment of territory assigned Prince George's County occurred in 1748 when the county was reduced to its present limits, including the District of Columbia, by Chapters 14 and 15 of the Laws of Maryland for 1748. According to the first act which was stimulated by a petition by some of the freeholders in Prince George's County who found it inconvenient to attend the County Court at Upper Marlboro, it was enacted

"That from and after the Tenth Day of *December*, in the year One thousand seven hundred and forty eight the Land lying at present in *Prince George's* County, and contained within the bounds following, viz., by a Line drawn from *Mattawoman* run, in the Road commonly called the *Rolling Road*, that leads from the late dwelling Plantation of Mr. *Edward Neale*, through the lower Part of Mr. *Peter Dent's* Dwelling Plantation, until it strikes Patowmack River, at or near the bounded Tree of a Tract of Land whereon *John Beall*, junior now lives (standing on the Bank of the aforesaid River, at the lower end of the aforesaid *Beall's* Plantation) then with the River to the Mouth of *Mattawoman* Creek, shall be and for ever hereafter deemed as a Part of *Charles* County. . . ."