

lying between the northwest (Marshyhope Creek) and the northeast branches of the Nanticoke River became acute. Prior to this time Somerset County as the older had assumed the northwest branch to be the main Nanticoke River, and had accordingly exercised authority over the territory between the two branches. On October 4, 1684, the Governor and Council issued an order that the bounds of Somerset and Dorchester County be determined. A commission was appointed to ascertain the main branch of the Nanticoke River and the bounds between the two counties and their findings were ordered to be filed with the next succeeding Provincial Court (Md. Arch., 17:286 cited under Dorchester County). The decision of the commission was that the main branch was the one that has been accepted as such from that time to the present day. This decision of the commissioners defining the meaning of the original boundaries fixed the location of the northern boundaries of Somerset County permanently, except in so far as they have been subsequently modified by the determination of the Delaware-Maryland boundary line and the erection of Worcester and Wicomico counties.

The erection of Worcester County by the Acts of 1742, Chapter 19, permanently limited Somerset County on the east. The line at this time according to the Act was to run

“up the Westernmost Side of the said Creek [Dividing Creek] and to the Bridges called Denstone's Bridges, and from thence West to the main road called Parahawkin-Road; thence up and with the said road to John Caldwell, seniors, saw-mill, thence up and with the said road over Cox's Branch, to Broad Creek Bridge, and down the said Branch and Creek into Nanticoke-River.”

This boundary remained the limit of Somerset County on the east until the State Convention of 1867 when Wicomico County was erected out of portions of Somerset and Worcester counties. The old boundary ran from the crossing of Dividing Creek by the road from Snow Hill to Princess Anne along the road running from that point to Fruitland, and thence to Salisbury along the main road on the east side of the railroad to Laurel, Delaware. By the decision of 1750 determining the Delaware boundary line the Somerset boundary stopped just east of Delmar and