

## WICOMICO COUNTY.

Wicomico County, next to the youngest in the State, is one of the four erected by state conventions, the others being Washington, Montgomery, and Howard. In the constitution of the State adopted in 1867 was a section as follows: (Art. 13, section 2)

“ Beginning at the point where Mason and Dixon’s line crosses the channel of Pocomoke River, hence following said line to the channel of the Nanticoke River, thence with the channel of said river to Tangier Sound, or the intersection of Nanticoke and Wicomico Rivers, thence up the channel of the Wicomico River to the mouth of Wicomico Creek, thence with the channel of said creek and Passerdyke Creek to Dashield’s or Disharoon’s Mills, thence with the millpond of said mills and branch following the middle prong of said branch, to Meadow Bridge, on the road, dividing the Counties of Somerset and Worcester, near the southwest corner of farm of William P. Morris, thence due east to the Pocomoke river, thence with the channel of said river to the beginning. . . . then said parts of Worcester and Somerset Counties shall become and constitute a new County, to be called Wicomico County; and Salisbury shall be the County seat . . . . ”

No changes have occurred in the limits of the county. It is, however, of interest to trace the different jurisdictions under which the inhabitants of Wicomico County have been placed in the years since its settlement. In the early days of the Province there were no settlements known prior to the seventh decade of the seventeenth century. Soon after the establishment of Somerset County in 1666 settlements gradually extended up the Nanticoke River and on the shores of the Wicomico. As early as 1684 there were enough settlers in the region between Marshyhope Creek and the main branch of the Nanticoke to occasion controversy between Somerset and Dorchester counties which was settled by an order of Council on October 4, 1684, when it was decided that the main branch of the Nanticoke, and consequently the northern boundary of Somerset County, was the northeastern branch of the river. Subsequent to 1742, when the present Worcester County was erected, that portion of Wicomico County lying west of the railroad from Princess Anne to Delmar was the only part within Somerset County. Prior to that time whatever settlements had been made to the eastward were also in Somerset County and records dealing with land transfers, probate courts, etc., should be looked for in Princess Anne, although transcripts of the majority of the important papers have been made for record in