

**WORCESTER COUNTY.**

Worcester County, as it was known forty years ago, was erected in 1742 by an Act of Assembly, but more than half a century before that there was a Worcester County erected by order of the Lord Proprietary and even this Act was but the amplification of previous instructions to erect an unnamed county where Worcester now is.

On the 22d of October, 1669, the Council of Maryland, following out instructions received from his Lordship bearing the date of July 28, 1669, ordered

“that from the Hore kill to Mount Scarborough be . . . . erected into a County & called as the Lord Proprietary shall hereafter direct” (Md. Arch., 5: 57).

The limits of the county as here named are the Hore kill or Lewes Creek near Lewes, Delaware and Mount Scarborough which, according to Herrman's map of 1670, lay south of Snow Hill, probably near the present town of Scarboro. The total elevation above sea-level in this region is usually below forty feet so that it is hard to find any place which might be designated as a “Mount.”

His Lordship's instructions at the same time called for the erection of a county, named Durham, which was to extend north of Worcester County along the Delaware from the Whorekill to the 40th degree of North Latitude.

On the 19th of June, in the year 1672, the Proprietary Lord Baltimore through his Governor erected a Worcester County which included practically all of the territory under dispute between himself and the Duke of York (the same having not yet been granted to William Penn). The proclamation runs as follows:

“Beginning at the Southermost Branch of a Bay now called Rehoboth Bay and from thence running Northerly up the Sea Board side to the South Cape of Deleware Bay and thence to the Whore keil Creeke and up the Bay to the fortieth degree Northerly Latitude into a County and do hereby erect the same into a County and it is our will and Pleasure that it shall be a County and called by the name of worcester County in our said Province of Maryland.”

According to these limits the Worcester County of 1672 included not only the unnamed county of 1669 but Durham County as well, the lim-