

## HOWARD COUNTY.

The existence of Howard County as a distinct political unit dates from the Convention of 1850 although its outline is defined by the Acts of 1838, Chapter 22, which separated Howard District as a distinct part of Anne Arundel County. According to this Act the boundaries were to be as follows:

"Beginning . . . . at the intersection of the west shore of Deep Run with the southern shore of the Patapsco River, at or near Ellicott's furnace, and running southerly with said Deep Run, until it reaches the Baltimore and Washington Rail Road [now the Washington Branch of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad]; and thence with the said rail road and including the same until it reaches the southwestern line of Anne Arundel county on the big Patuxent River" and thence with the said river, and the lines of said county until it intersects the northwestern point of said county, and running thence with the lines of Carroll and Baltimore counties to the place of beginning.

The territory now included within Howard County was a part of Baltimore County from 1659 to 1726. During the interval between the erection of Anne Arundel and Baltimore counties the territory was under the jurisdiction of the former. Subsequent to 1838 the relations with Anne Arundel County were rather loose. The progress of settlement of the region was upward along the valleys of the Patapsco and Patuxent rivers and more slowly upon the divides between, the frontier line being a crescent-like curve which moved slowly to the northwest from the original settlement along the Bay. During the interval from 1659 to some time later than 1727 the inhabitants along the valley of the Patapsco and above Warfield's Ridge, the beginning of the Piedmont, were residents of Baltimore County even though their homes and lands were subsequently in Anne Arundel. By an Act passed July 25, 1726, the land lying on the south side of the Patapsco River was taken from Baltimore County according to the following bounds:

"From the Head thereof, and from thence, bounding on the *south* side of the main Falls, being the Southernmost great Branch of the said River, and running as the said Branch runs, to the first main Fork of the said Falls."

The relative geographic positions of the heads of the Patapsco and Patuxent [Snowden] rivers are such that no line run due north from the head of the latter would intersect the former. The contemporaneous opinion in 1726 believed this to be possible, the idea obtaining that the