

the first division of Patuxent District Collector Christopher Rousby (appointed in 1676) kept a deputy on the Eastern Shore.²⁴ Afterward, under a law of October, 1694, the Collector of Patuxent had to maintain a deputy, who was usually the Naval Officer, at each of the newly established ports of Annapolis and Oxford. A Patuxent customs house was erected at Annapolis early in 1770.²⁵ As the navigable waters of North Potomac District extended so far inland, the Collector and Naval Officer there often lived apart, one in its upper and the other in its lower reaches, each serving as the other's deputy.²⁶ The Collector of Pocomoke kept a deputy on the sea-board side; and Sterling, who lived at New Town on Chester, employed one at Baltimore.²⁷

In 1695-98 Governor Nicholson obtained appointment of certain "preventive officers," namely two Surveyors and Searchers, one at each of the ports, and three Riding Surveyors, all on the Eastern Shore. They could enter ships and warehouses, break open trunks and packages, and seize goods for infringement of law. The Surveyors and Searchers were to reside and act at their ports, while the Riding Surveyors were to patrol remote areas in quest of smugglers. One was stationed on the Bohemia and Sassafras Rivers in Cecil County, another on Pocomoke River, and a third on Wicomico River and Monie Bay.²⁸

The efficiency of these officers is questionable. Governor Sharpe in 1760 thought all the Surveyorships "so many Sine Cures."²⁹ Ten years later Inspector John Williams reported that, "A Surveyor is but of little use to the Service, as Business is done here. Vessels load and unload throughout those Rivers at such a considerable distance from each other, that the very Expense of Visiting them would be much more than the Salarys they receive,

²⁴ *Archives*, XXIII, 536. Similarly Col. George Layfield, the last Surveyor and Comptroller General (appointed in 1684/5), who lived on the Eastern Shore, kept a deputy on the Western Shore (*Ibid.*, VIII, 37).

²⁵ *Ibid.*, XX, 293; XXV, 582; John Williams to Customs Commissioners at Boston, May 12, 1770 (*Maryland Historical Magazine*, XXVII [1932], 233).

²⁶ *Archives*, XXV, 582.

²⁷ *Ibid.*, XX, 487; *Maryland Gazette*, Aug. 27, 1752; John Williams to Customs Commissioners at Boston, May 26, 1770 (*Maryland Historical Magazine*, XXVII [1932], 234). New Town was, of course, the present Chestertown.

²⁸ Cf. Hoon, *op. cit.*, 115, 183. For early commissions to Surveyors and Searchers see *Calendar of Treasury Books*, VI, 313; *Archives*, XXIII, 326, 356, 380; XXV, 84; for commissions and instructions to early Riding Surveyors see *Ibid.*, XX, 303, 389; XXIII, 326, 356, 358-61, 390; XXV, 130. On illegal trade at the head of the bay and on the Eastern Shore see *Ibid.*, V, 83, 91, 104, 113; XXV, 582.

²⁹ Horatio Sharpe to William Sharpe, July 8, 1760 (*Ibid.*, IX, 437).