

1657 to 1777, when the central jurisdiction over testamentary matters was abolished. It may be added that abstracts of the early Maryland wills, down to the year 1744, have been printed under private auspices as Baldwin's *The Maryland Calendar of Wills*.

The justices who served as members of the Provincial Court at the opening of the period covered by this volume were Governor Charles Calvert, later third Lord Baltimore, Philip Calvert, the Chancellor and an uncle of the Governor, Henry Sewell, the Secretary of the Province, Robert Clarke a former Surveyor-General, John Bateman, Baker Brooke, who married a niece of the Lord Proprietary, Jerome White, Henry Coursey, and Edward Lloyd. Bateman died late in the year 1663 and Clarke in July 1664, and their places were filled by William Evans and Thomas Truman. Henry Sewell went to England in the summer of 1664 and died soon afterwards. As has already been shown the men who sat on the Provincial Court were the same group that made up the Council and the Upper House.

During the three and a half year period which this volume covers the Provincial Court met twelve times as follows: March 25–April 1, 1663; April 8, 1663; May 3 1663 (as a Court of Admiralty); September 8–11, 1663; February 9–12, 1664; April 5–6, 1664; July 5–6, 1664; October 4–6, 1664; December 20–22, 1664; March 1–3, 1665; October 10–17, 1665; January 2–5, 1666. The March, 1663, session was held at St. Leonard's and the Admiralty session at St. John's; all the other meetings were held at St. Mary's, doubtless in the house bought from Hannah Lee in 1662 for use as a State House, which figures so extensively in the records of the court found in this volume.

Of the men who appear as attorneys before the Provincial Court at this period, few, if any, were lawyers; and the same may be said with equal truth of the justices themselves. The names of some thirty men occur as attorneys representing various litigants before the court. Many of these were planters and officials of prominence. We name a few: Dr. Luke Barber, William Calvert, Thomas Dent, William Evans, Josias Fendall, George Gøuldsmith, John Gittings, Daniel Jenifer, Dr. John Lumbrozo, John Morecroft, James Neale, Thomas Notley, Thomas Manning, Francis Riggs, Thomas Sprigg, Nicholas Spencer, and Robert Slye.

The matters brought before the Provincial Court during the four years included in this volume are very numerous and cover a variety of subjects. Apart from the legal interest, which makes special mention here of several of the cases well worth while, many of the entries have sufficient historical, personal, or human interest to render them especially deserving of the reader's attention. Perhaps the majority of the cases are suits for debt brought before the court in order to secure a judgment against the debtor, and execution against his property and person, the latter resulting in imprisonment, if the debt were not paid. Considering the comparatively small population of the Province at this time and the fact that innumerable suits for small matters were also brought in the county and manorial courts, the large amount of litigation is surprising. To attempt to present anything like a complete analysis or comment upon all the cases brought before the court which are recorded in these