

Liber B No. 1 Boston George Johnson & John White gent: Greeting Knowe yee That wee for th^e ease & benefitt of th^e people of this o^r Province & for th^e speedy & more exact administracon of Justice haue erected & doe by theis p^rsents erect all th^t tract of Land within this o^r province of Maryland bounded on th^e south with a Line drawne east from Watkins point being th^e North pointe of th^t bay into which th^e river Wighco formerly Called Wighcocomoco afterwards Pocomoke & Now Wighcocomoco againe doth fall exclusiue) to th^e ocean sea on th^e east Nanticoke river on th^e North & th^e sound of Chesepiake bay on th^e West into A County by th^e Name of Somersett County in hon^r to our dear Sister th^e Lady Mary Somersett & for th^e great trust & Confidence wee haue in yo^r fidelitys Circumpeccons providences & wisdomes haue Constituted ordeined & appoynted, & doe by theis presents constitute ordaine & appointe you Stephen Horsey William Stevens William Thorne James Jones John Winder Henry Boston George Johnson & John White gent: Commissioners Joyntly & severally to keepe th^e peace in Sommersett County aforesaid; And to keepe & cause to be kept all Lawes & orders made for th^e good & Conservacon of the peace & for th^e quiett rule & governm^t of th^e people in all & every th^e Articles of th^e same & to chastice & punish all persons offending th^e forme of any th^e Lawes & orders of this our province or of any of them in Sommersett County aforesaid as according to th^e forme of those lawes & ord^{rs} shall be fitt to be done; Wee haue also constituted & ordained you & every foure or more of you w^{ch} you th^e s^d Stephen Horsey William Stevens & William Thorne (unless some one of o^r Councell be p^rsent) are allwaies to be one Com^{rs} to enquire by th^e oath of good & Lawfull men of yo^r County aforesaid off all manner of Felonies, Witchcrafts, inchantm^{ts} sorceryes Magick arts tresspasses Forestallings ingrossings & extorcions whatsoever & of all & singuler other misdeeds & offences of w^{ch} Justices of th^e peace in England may or ought lawfully to enquire by whomesoever or whensoever done or perpetrated or which hereafter shall happen to be done or perpetrated in th^e County aforesaid against th^e Lawes & ord^{rs} of this o^r province provided you p^rceed not in any of th^e cases afores^d to take life or member but th^t in every such case you send th^e prison^{rs} with their Indictments & th^e whole matter depending before you to o^r Justices of o^r provinciall Court next to be holden of this o^r p^rvince whensoever or wheresoever to be holden there to be tryed; And Further wee doe hereby Authorize you to issue writts process arrests & attachm^{ts} to hold plea of heare & determine & after Judgem^t execucon to award in all Causes Civill whether in acccons reall or p^rsonall where th^e thing in acccon doth not exceed th^e vallue of three thousand pounds weight of tobacco according to th^e lawes ord^{rs} & reasonable Customes made & used in this our province of Maryland In w^{ch} Causes Civill soe to be tryed wee doe Constitute ordeyne & appointe you th^e said Stephen Horsey