

and 1659, where he appears as successful in suits brought against him by John Salter to obtain possession of the tract Beaver Neck, on Kent Island.

Joseph Wickes, who was presiding justice of Kent from 1676 to 1683, was a member of the court as early as 1652. He was a colorful figure and was unquestionably a man of considerable force. He was in Maryland in 1650 and was almost certainly one of the group of Virginia Puritans who came here in 1649-1650. He was closely associated with Thomas Hynson, who is known to have been one of that group. His wife was a Virginian (p. 113). Wickes first appears on the Kent court, January 12, 1651/2, and was one of those who engaged his fidelity to the Commonwealth of England in 1652 (p. 5). There is little question that he was sympathetic with the Puritan party, as he was reappointed to the bench by the Commissioners of the Parliament, July 31, 1652 (p. 14). He lived at first on Love Point, Kent Island, which was surveyed for him in 1652, and was living on the island as late as 1664 (p. 365), but later he may have moved to "Wickcliffe", on Eastern Neck Island, with which the Wickes family was long associated. In 1656 he was the center of a scandal, and was brought before his own court as a result of statements made by Thomas Ringgold in a bastardy case. This case is described in much detail in these Kent County records, and shows that he was suspended and absent for several months from his own court (pp. 38, 66, 69, 72, 78, 84, 85, 113, 121, 127). At the time of the Fendall "rebellion" he and his friend, Thomas Hynson, were members of the outlawed Assembly called by Fendall in March 1660, and for this when proprietary authority was reasserted, they were debarred for seven years from holding office, might not serve in the Assembly at any time without pardon, and were obliged to give bond for good behavior (*Arch. Md. iii*, 404-405). On November 18, 1671, Wickes was again appointed a member of the Kent County Court (p. 317), where he probably continued to serve until he and two other members of the court were on November 7, 1683, upon the complaint of Major James Ringgold "turned out of the Commission for Kent County" for certain irregularities in their acts as justices, and ordered to give bond for their appearance at the next Provincial Court (*Arch. Md. xvii*, 169-172).

Thomas Ringgold (1611-1672), who was one of the justices of Kent, settled on Kent Island in 1650 with his two sons John and James. He was of the group of Puritans who came up from Virginia in the years 1649-1650, where he had appeared as a witness to a Lower Norfolk County, Virginia, deed, July 15, 1649. In 1650 he patented the tract, "Parson's Point" on Kent Island. He was a justice of Kent, January 12, 1651/2, and of the quorum, the same year he signed the oath of fidelity to the Commonwealth of England (p. 4). Ringgold seems to have been a man of force and independence. In the case of Thomas Ward *vs.* Thomas Hynson, tried before the Kent court in December 1656, his vote is recorded as "wholly dissenting" from the opinion of the rest of the bench, which was favorable to Ward (p. 77). The Kent County records show long continued enmity between Ringgold and Joseph Wickes, another prominent member of the court. On one occasion they exchanged opprobrious epithets, Ringgold calling Wickes a "whore master", and the latter retorting