

printed court record itself. Nearly an hundred pages of old Liber A, which was apparently intact when George A. Hanson published his *Old Kent* in 1876, are now missing for the first seven years from 1648 to 1654. This gap is in part supplied, however, by abstracts, usually in much abbreviated form, from the original records interpolated by Hanson in his book, and in part by entries relating to land which were copied from Liber A by a court clerk in 1727 in the Kent deed books. It is thought desirable to print here both Hanson's abstracts and the land notes.

From 1654, when the original records now in the clerks' office begin, to 1676 when the court minutes now printed end, the original records have been made use of. Unfortunately, however, there are three breaks. The first gap is from February to December, 1660, during the period of the Fendall "rebellion", when the minutes were obviously deleted under the orders of the Governor and Council, dated December 11, 1661, that "All Acts and Orders entered in the tyme of the defection—be forthwith razed and torne from among the Records" (*Arch. Md. xli*, 379). The second break is for the six years from 1662 to 1667, inclusive, and the third from 1672 to 1675. The records for the years covered by these breaks were missing when Hanson compiled his *Old Kent* in 1876, so there is small chance that they are still in existence. In the case of the original court record from 1648 to 1654, which Hanson made use of, there is always the chance that it may turn up in the clerk's office or in private hands.

In the *Maryland Historical Magazine*, XXI, for December 1926 (pp. 356-361), Mr. Scisco gives a calender of all the pre-Revolutionary Kent County records now in the Clerk's Office at Chestertown. From the proceedings of the Council and of the Provincial Court for the periods covered by these breaks in the Kent County records, some light is thrown upon the activities of the county court at those times.

The Kent court record shows that the court clerks during the period covered by these records were: Robert Vaughan, 1651; Thomas Hynson, 1652-1653; Thomas Hill, 1654-1656; Thomas Hynson, 1656-1657; William Leeds, 1657-1658; John Coursey, 1658-1660; Tobias Wells, 1660-1662; (break); John Wright, 1667/8-1669; Disborough Bennett, 1669-1670; Peter Sayer, 1670/1-1674; Charles Bancks, 1674-1676.

An estimate, although only an approximate one, of the population of Kent, based upon the number of tithables given in the levies during the period covered by these records, is of some interest. In 1653 the population of Kent Island was about 250 (p. 14); in 1660 Kent Island and the settlements on the mainland had a population of about 600 (p. 231); but in 1668, six years after Talbot had been taken from Kent, the population of what is now Kent County, and which then included Kent Island, was still only about 600. In 1670 the population was about 650, but by the next year had jumped to 1,000.