

William Hambleton, and Philip Stephenson (*Arch. Md. iii*, 491). Nothing further is heard of Curtis, who probably did not take his seat, nor does Hambleton sit until 1668/9, and another commission issued July 4, 1665, omits the names of both Curtis and Hambleton, and commissions Carpenter, Stephenson, and Thomas Powell to the court, (p. 386; *Arch. Md. iii*, 529). On February 16, 1668/9, Sibery and Hambleton sat for the first time on the Talbot Court (p. 430). On Dec. 17, 1670, a commission was appointed with Richard Woolman, William Coursey, Philemon Lloyd and Thomas South of the quorum, and with Thomas Hynson, Seth Foster, Philip Stephenson, James Ringgold, William Hambleton, Jonathan Sibery, Richard Gorsuch, Edward Rowe (Roe), and John Wells associates (p. 353). On Mar. 2, 1675/6, a new commission was issued with Richard Woolman as the presiding judge, and William Coursey, Philemon Lloyd, and Edward Mann the other justices of the quorum, and with them as associate justices, Thomas Hynson, Philip Stephenson, Jonathan Sibery, Richard Gorsuch, George Cowley, William Bishop, and Anthony Mayle (*Arch. Md. xv*, 70-71). The personnel of the Talbot Court during this period is of interest.

Richard Woolman (-1681), who was the presiding justice from the creation of the court in 1662 until his death in 1681, was one of the group of Puritans who came up from lower Virginia in 1649-1650, and settled first in Anne Arundel County. The records of Lower Norfolk County, Virginia, show him as living there in November 1648. He was a member of the Anne Arundel County Court in 1657, but soon after this moved to the Eastern Shore. He not only sat on the Talbot court for twenty years, but during much of this time represented that county in the Assembly. We find him successively mentioned as lieutenant and captain of the Talbot Militia (*Arch. Md. iii*, 466.) At the June, 1664, Talbot Court a certain Thomas Wilkinson, under suspicion of being a hog-stealer, who had spread rumors that the presiding justice was not in this respect without sin, was brought before the court by Woolman on the charge of defamation. He apologized "in oppen court and upon his knees", expressing his regret that he had wrongfully defamed the justice (pp. 369-370).

Captain William Coursey (-1684), was a brother of John Coursey (-1661) who was Clerk, Sheriff, and Justice of Kent in 1660 and 1661, and of Councillor Henry Coursey (c. 1625-1697) of Talbot. All three brothers were probably of the group of Virginia Puritans who emigrated to Maryland in 1649-1650. We find William Coursey Sheriff of Talbot County, 1656-1659; Justice of Kent, 1660/1661, and of Talbot from 1662 to 1681, and probably until his death in 1684; and Sheriff of Talbot in 1669. In 1680 he became the Presiding Justice of Talbot.

Seth Foster (-1675), who as disclosed by these records, sat on the Talbot Court from the time of its organization in 1662 until 1673, lived on Great Choptank Island and was a large landholder, not only there, but on Kent Island and Chester River. His religion is not known, but one of his daughters married Vincent Lowe, the Catholic Attorney-General. These county records show that Foster, like his colleague Woolman, was the subject of slander. At the August, 1665, court he sued a certain Robert Knapp for defamation in having