

acres "on Lankford's Neck, Talbot County" to his son, John Wells. There is reason to believe that John Wells became a resident of Kent County.

The first clerk of the Talbot County Court was Moses Stagwell of Kent, who was appointed by the Council, February 18, 1661/2, to be both Clerk and Sheriff (*Arch. Md. iii*, 448). He was a temporary appointee, doubtless to organize the office, for a few weeks later the Governor, on April 2, 1662, appointed as Clerk and Sheriff, John Morgan, who had been presented to the Council by the court for appointment to these positions (*Arch. Md. iii*, 449). Thomas Vaughan, son of Robert Vaughan, the old Commander of Kent, became Clerk of Talbot, November 17, 1663 (p. 360). He was succeeded on June 16, 1668, by Dr. William Hemsley (p. 421). Hemsley remained Clerk for many years. He was reappointed, April 18, 1674 (*Arch. Md. xv*, 35), and was acting as Clerk when this county record ends. At one time he had an assistant recording clerk (p. 523). Hemsley appears as sitting on the court only once, at the session of March, 1671/2, during the period covered by this record; but was again a member of the court in 1681 (p. 519; *Arch. Md. xv*, 346). The provincial records show that he was a Roman Catholic (*Arch. Md. v*, 317), but his descendants were members of the Church of England.

The Talbot court records as reproduced here seem to be complete for the 1662-1674 period. Louis Dow Scisco describes the colonial records of this county in detail in a paper which he published in the *Maryland Historical Magazine* for June, 1927. Of the four county records reproduced in these two volumes of the *Archives*, Talbot is the only one that shows from the beginning a complete separation of the court minutes and the county land records. In the other three counties for this period the court minutes and land records are mingled. The land entries are omitted here, and only the court minutes or proceedings and the county vital records, which are also segregated in a different part of the old court liber, are reproduced.

The county levies in the case of Talbot indicate that the population in the ten year period between 1662, the year when the county was established, and 1673, the population more than doubled. There were probably about 1200 inhabitants in 1662, and these had grown to about 3,000 in 1673, indicating that Talbot County was then one of the most rapidly developing counties of the Province.