

justices of the newly created county, with Johnson added to the quorum (*Arch. Md. iii*, 553-555).

The boundary dispute, although not settled, had quieted down when the new county was erected in 1666, so that the period covered by these Somerset County court proceedings was politically so quiet as to require no special comment. The group of men who were members of the commissions which governed the territory within the bounds of Somerset, both before and after its establishment as a county, are, however, worthy of some notice. The interested reader is referred to Clayton Torrence's *Old Somerset on the Eastern Shore of Maryland*, 1935, for admirable sketches of these early commissioners or justices, as well as for the story of Somerset during the remainder of the seventeenth century. The writer is largely indebted to this valuable work for the biographical data about them which follows:

Stephen Horsey (Horsi) (c. 1620-1671), was first appointed on the court of the lower Eastern Shore in February 1662/3. He had appeared in 1643 as a headright for land in Northampton County, Virginia, and in 1662 signed a protest against certain actions of the authorities at Jamestown in matters of taxation. He probably came into Maryland late in 1661, for early in 1662 he had surveyed for him in Annessex 650 acres of land under the name of "Coulbourne". Horsey was an aggressive non-conformist and unquestionably was obliged to leave Virginia because of his religious and political activities. He was in trouble with the Northampton court in 1653 for having spoken of the justices as "asses & villanes". Edmund Scarburgh, writing of him in 1663, declares that he was "once elected a Burgess of the Common Crowd & thrown out by the Assembly for a factious and tumultuous person, A man repugnant to all Govm<sup>t</sup>". The Virginia records show his election as a burgess in 1653. It would appear that his refusal to pay tithes was the immediate cause of his leaving Virginia. He was appointed on the "commission for the peace" of the lower Eastern Shore of Maryland, February 4, 1662/3, and was recommissioned in May 1664, when he was named first on the commission. When Somerset County was established in 1666, he was appointed to head the new court, continuing to serve as the presiding justice until his death in 1671. He acted as the clerk of the Eastern Shore court a few months before the erection of Somerset County, being succeeded by Edmund Beauchamp. From August 1666 to June 1668, when he was High Sheriff, he does not seem to have sat on the court. He was elected to the Assembly from Somerset County in February 1668/9, but does not appear to have taken his seat. Horsey seems to have been the leader of the Annessex group of Quakers which most actively opposed Col. Edmund Scarburgh when the latter invaded the lower Eastern Shore in October 1663, in a fruitless attempt to establish the authority of Virginia there. Although an active non-conformist and almost certainly a Quaker, no conclusive proof of his Quakerism has been found. Scarburgh thus contemptuously describes Horsey's religious tendencies: "Of all sects yet professedly none, Constant in nothing but opposing Church Govm<sup>t</sup>, his children at great ages yet unchristened . . .". The Somerset court record shows that "Stephen Horsey, Sen<sup>r</sup> died and was buried at his plantation in Annessex 8 August 1671".