

of the presiding justice, Stephen Horsey. Thorne continued to serve as a justice of Somerset until his death, c. 1669. His home was at "Thornton", a plantation on the north side of the Manokin River. He appears to have been a member of the Church of England.

Capt. John Odber (-1667), one of the early commissioners on the lower Eastern Shore of Maryland, was in the Province as early as July 1658, when he appears as commander of militia on the north side of the Patuxent River. In April 1661 he was sent in command of fifty men to aid the Susquehannock Indians to ward off the inroads of the northern tribes. On February 20, 1662/3, he was appointed on the commission of the peace for the lower Eastern Shore, but his name does not again appear when the other justices were reappointed in May 1664. After this he disappears from the records until an entry in the Council proceedings, dated August 6, 1667, makes note of "Captain John Odber and his Servant being lately murdered by some of the Wiccomeses Indians" (*Arch. Md. v, 11, 29*).

George Johnson (c. 1627-1681), who was appointed one of the commissioners of the peace for the lower Eastern Shore the year before the erection of Somerset County in 1666, probably came into Maryland from Northampton County, Virginia, early in 1663. His English background is known. He was the son of Edward Johnson of Canterbury, and came to Virginia some time prior to January 1660/1. Johnson was a non-conformist, probably at first an Independent or Congregationalist, but after coming to Virginia was converted to Quakerism and became an active member of that sect. He settled on the Annemessex and was one of the leading planters of Somerset County. He was appointed one of the justices of the lower Eastern Shore on August 28, 1665, and when Somerset County was erected in August 1666, he was reappointed as a justice of the newly created county. When this part of the Eastern Shore was invaded by Scarburgh in October 1663, Johnson was energetic in his opposition to the former's scheme to add the disputed territory to Virginia, and drew upon his head Scarburgh's description of him as "ye proteus of heresy". Johnson's Quaker conscience became uneasy, and he "desired time to consider the oath", when he was appointed in August 1666 on the new Somerset County Court, although he finally took the oath at St. Mary's City on September 11th. Johnson remained a member of the Somerset County Court until 1680, although his name disappears from the list of justices when he was sheriff of the county in 1668-1669. Johnson was the first clerk of the lower Eastern Shore court, a temporary appointment pending the arrival of Edmund Beauchamp as clerk of the new county. He lived on his plantation, "Straights", on the Great Annemessex River. He died in 1681.

William Stevens (1630-1687) was commissioned a justice of the peace of the lower Eastern Shore of Maryland in August, 1665. He was of the quorum, and was recommissioned on August 22, 1666, when Somerset County was erected, continuing to serve until his death in 1687. He was the son of John Stevens of Ledburn in the parish of Mentmore, Buckinghamshire, England. There is some evidence that he had been in Northampton County, Virginia, before appearing on the Eastern Shore of Maryland in 1665. He was a member