

requested to do so, presented himself for trial at the February, 1669/70, court, and no one appearing to testify against him, he was cleared by proclamation (p. 609). At the same time John Balley of St. Mary's was indicted, because after he had been sworn foreman of a coroner's jury, he left before the verdict was rendered. For this he was fined a thousand pounds of tobacco (p. 613).

When any of the processes of the law, which were ordinarily performed by the sheriff, had to be directed against the sheriff himself, the coroner by law was called upon to execute them. In a Kent County land dispute, Thomas Ringgold *vs.* Thomas Hynson and Henry Parker, it was necessary to summon a jury of inquest to determine the boundary lines of land in controversy. The court at its October, 1666, session ordered a *venire facias* to be issued to Coroner Thomas Vaughan to summons a jury of twelve, because Hynson, the then sheriff, was disqualified to act in this case (p. 188). Again when Dr. Richard Tilghman, sheriff of Talbot, was charged with making a false return of a writ, the court at its December, 1669, session ordered the coroner of Talbot to bring Tilghman before it (p. 616). Incidentally it may be added that the charges against Tilghman were dismissed.

The record shows that the deputy sheriffs were appointed by the sheriff under whom they served, or, as he was often called, the High Sheriff. Thus on May 5, 1669, John Jarbo, High Sheriff of St. Mary's County, appointed Thomas Winn of Snow Hill, his deputy (p. 446-7).

The county courts from time to time, submitted to the Governor and Council, or to the Provincial Court, the sundry items for which inclusion in the public levy was asked. Thus at the April, 1670, court session, the Sheriff of St. Mary's County presented the levy, which the higher court was asked to examine and allow (p. 536).

Horses and cattle running at large in the woods were a serious menace to the planters' crops growing in ill-fenced fields. They were difficult to catch and when caught, it was equally difficult to establish their ownership. Complaints lodged against this nuisance brought action at the December, 1668, session, when the court took measures which savored more of what these same men sitting as members of the Council might have been expected to do in that capacity, rather than as members of a judicial body. It was ordered, that as many persons made it their business to range the woods on the pretense of finding their own cattle, but really for the purpose of marking with their cattle mark unmarked animals which really belonged to others, that thereafter all persons must repair to the Sheriff and establish their ownership before marking any animals whatsoever (p. 373). Two years earlier a license had been issued of one year's duration to Thomas Snow to kill any unmarked wild cattle or hogs at large anywhere on the north side of Chester River, the hides and tallow to be reserved for the Lord Proprietary's use, Snow to reserve the meat for himself (p. 115).

All cattle and hogs were required by law to be marked with a distinctive mark, registered or recorded either in the Provincial Court or in a county court. Ordinarily such live-stock marks were recorded in the local courts, but residents of St. Mary's County and of the nearby counties, frequently