

“the Church of the said Parish is an Antient Building, very much gone to Ruin, so that it Cannot be Expected to Stand long, nor is it practicable to repair the same”, they prayed for the passage of an act levying upon the inhabitants of this parish 200,000 pounds of tobacco in three equal assessments to build a new church at a more convenient place than the present location (pp. 181, 264-265). The petition was first presented in the Upper House and referred to the lower chamber, where a bill for this purpose was drawn and passed both houses (pp. 52, 177, 181, 185). This act authorized the purchase of two acres of land and directed that a new church be built upon it (pp. 264-265).

St. Paul’s Parish, Kent, through its vestry, churchwardens, and sundry other inhabitants of the parish, petitioned the Assembly praying, that as there was in the hands of the vestry 20,000 pounds of Tobacco over and above the amount required for the repair of the church, that it be allowed to apply this to building and furnishing a vestry house (pp. 50, 158, 269). A bill to this end was introduced in the Lower House, passed, and received the assent of the upper chamber (pp. 177, 181, 185). The vestry house still stands. As the result of a petition, presented in the Upper House on November 16 by several inhabitants of Kent County, reciting that as many of the residents of the middle of that county lived too remotely from the St. Paul’s and Shrewsbury parish churches to attend divine services, it was prayed that there be erected out of these two parishes a new parish to be named Chester, and that a parish church be built at the Cross Roads at a place called I. U. (pp. 50, 202, 228, 300). An act creating Chester parish was then passed by both houses (pp. 79, 202). This act empowered the vestrymen to be chosen, to purchase two acres of land at I. U. and to build there a commodious brick church at a cost of not more than 130,000 pounds of tobacco; and also to establish a chapel-of-ease in Chestertown, making use of for this purpose the “commodious house” now used for church purposes in that town built at private expense on a lot purchased in the same way, “saving to the private Proprietors their Pews in the said Church and Gallery”. The vestry of Chester Parish was given authority to build an addition to this house at a cost not exceeding 50,000 pounds of tobacco. The act further provided that the present incumbent of Shrewsbury Parish, the Reverend George William Forrester, was to serve Chester Parish as long as he shall continue the incumbent of Shrewsbury Parish (pp. 299, 302). At the December, 1766, session an act was passed authorizing the building of a vestry house at Chester Church, and at the 1768 session authority was obtained to build a new chapel in Chestertown (Hanson’s *Laws of Maryland made since MDCCLXIII*; 1787; acts of May, 1768, chapter viii).

A petition was presented in the Upper House on December 5 by sundry inhabitants of Queen Anne’s County praying for a division of the existing parishes of that county, which was sent to the Lower House (pp. 75, 211, 235). This asked that the bounds between St. Luke’s, Christ Church, St. John’s parishes in Queen Anne’s County and St. Paul’s Parish lying both in Queen Anne’s and Talbot counties be laid out and settled for the future (p. 232). The act which was passed to this end recited that a new division was necessary because the large extent of some of the parishes made attendance