

purchase of liquor. He seems to have retrieved his fortunes later, as he not only represented Charles County in the Lower House of Assembly in 1669, but was clerk of the Upper House from 1674 to 1676 and Deputy Commissary of the Prerogative Court. He died in 1706, when his estate was administered upon by his son, Samuel Boughton. In addition to his landholdings in Charles County, where he lived, he owned two large tracts of land in Baltimore County. One wonders whether he may not be the same Richard Boughton, who, described as the son of Thomas Boughton, armiger [one entitled to bear heraldic arms], of Bilton, county Warwick, was admitted as a student of law to Gray's Inn, London, February, 1647/8. (*Foster's Register of Admissions to Gray's Inn*, Vol. 2, part I, p. 247).

The next clerk of Charles County of which we have a record was Henry Bonner. A deposition shows that he was twenty-two years old about the time that he became clerk in 1669 (p. 540). He had apparently only very recently arrived in the Province. Bonner, like Boughton, had a checkered career as clerk. He had apparently taken over the office of clerk, or was acting as deputy clerk, about the time Boughton got into difficulties in the summer of 1669, because, when in June, 1670, he was sued by John Hatch for debt, he sought to evade suit by asking for a "writ of privilege", declaring that Hatch was "not proceeding according to law & privileges allowed th<sup>e</sup> Clarke of the Court", and was granted a "nonsuite" (pp. 258-259). No record of his formal appointment to the clerkship by the Governor, however, has been found before September 16, 1670, when he was recommissioned (*Arch. Md.* V; 75). About a year later he no longer held that office, as he is referred to as "late clerk", when at the November, 1671, county court, the grand jury investigated charges made to the Governor against him by John Helme for "mischarging certain Fees." The Grand Jury found that his account was "erroneous", but did not find it "presentable" (p. 356). The record does not show whether or not he resumed office, but it is unlikely that he did, as on August 1, 1672, Philip Gibbon was appointed clerk. At the November, 1674, court, immediately after the death of Philip Gibbon, who had succeeded him as clerk, "it was ordered that M<sup>r</sup> Henry Bonner shall be Clerke to th<sup>e</sup> Co<sup>m</sup>mission<sup>s</sup> below for drawing of warrants & hues & Cryes & mitimus's or any such like businesse" (p. 590). This looks more like an appointment for special duties than as a formal reappointment to the full county clerkship. His subsequent career has not been traced. In 1670 Bonner married Elizabeth, the widow of Walter Story, a London merchant, who had settled in Charles County. They became involved in various law suits in connection with their own affairs and the Story estate, and were both apparently in prison for debt in 1672 (*Arch. Md.* II, 459-460; LI, passim). Bonner appears to have lived in the upper part of Charles County, which later became Prince George's, as his will, dated and probated in October, 1702, refers to him as of Prince George's, and vests his entire estate, including large land holdings on Bush River, Baltimore County, in his wife, Elizabeth.

A somewhat nebulous figure is Philip Gibbon who succeeded Bonner and was formally commissioned "Clerke and keeper of the Records and proceedings" of the Charles County Court, August 1, 1672 (*Arch. Md.* LI, 83). It