

to a comprehensive act for the improvement of the roads in Anne-Arundel, Baltimore and Frederick Counties. By order of the Lower House the bill was drafted by the delegates of those three counties alone (p. 324), and during its passage, it received an unusual amount of attention (pp. 338, 340, 341-342). It passed the Lower House easily, 29 to 13, though half of those who drafted it, voted against it and tried to get it postponed to the next session (pp. 342, 348). The Upper House passed it the same day it was sent up to them and the Governor sealed it into law (pp. 295, 302). The Act relating to the Public Roads in Anne Arundel, Baltimore, and Frederick Counties specified what roads should be built and how much money should be spent on each one. For construction and maintenance, the roads were divided into six districts, each with three supervisors. All the roads were "to be well cleared grubbed and stoned forty feet wide except the said Road leading to Annapolis which shall be . . . thirty feet wide" (p. 396).

The roads were paid for out of a special road tax on the taxables of the counties concerned, four pounds in Anne Arundel, twelve pounds in Baltimore and eight pounds in Frederick County. Besides these new or altered roads, provision was made for the upkeep of others in these counties. Every taxable was ordered to work six days a year eight hours a day on road repair and to bring with him his own tools. At the same session, a law was passed for a road from the free school in Somerset County to a point on the main Worcester County road, so that scholars and visitors from Worcester County could get to the school more easily (p. 409). The Eden School, as it was called, was the official free school for both counties.

Since the setting up of the Establishment, every session of the Assembly had seen introduced and passed some law for the benefit of a particular parish. These 1773-1774 session were no exception. All Hallows Parish, Worcester County, asked for and got 45,000 pounds of tobacco for a chapel of ease in the lower part of the parish (p. 371). The parishes were so large and the roads so bad that getting in to Snow Hill Town to attend church was impossible. All Saints Parish Calvert County got 200,000 pounds, spread over three years, for a new church (pp. 370-371). One of the trustees was the rector, the Rev. Thomas John Clagett, later the first Protestant Episcopal Bishop in America. Two others at least had been members of the Lower House. Christ Church Parish, also in Calvert County, had been trying for a year or so to get money to finish their building. In the short October convention of Assembly a bill to that end was passed, but the adjournment and the prorogation of the Assembly had prevented it from becoming law. Now in the November session a bill for them passed the Lower House, only to be defeated in the Upper House (pp. 38, 337, 292, 343). St. Paul's Parish Baltimore County asked for a new church (pp. 57, 111) but it got nowhere, even in the Lower House.

St. Anne's Parish Annapolis was, unofficially, the parish church of the Assembly. The rector and vestry had tried in June 1773 to get a new church building, but their petition was referred to the next session (*Archives*, LXIII, 322, 367, 375), and in the October and the November sessions it was again referred (pp. 36, 111). In the March-April 1774 session, action was taken.