

But Jones had not been unopposed in Worcester and Somerset, and when he appeared before the Court, he tried to accuse his accusers first. He offered the Governor and Council (who were, be it remembered, also the justices of the Court) "Articles of Complaint . . . ag^t Henry Smith one of his Lordships Justices of peace for Som^rset & also Worcester Countyes". Smith, who had been justice for Somerset and a member of the quorum since February 9, 1669/70 (*Archives*, V, 61) was said to have "obstinately & Contemptuously Kept an unlicensed Ordinary" for two years or more. He had also, having arrested one Stephen Whitman for speaking seditious words, kept him so carelessly that he had escaped and fled the Province. He had for two months kept a runaway servant working for him, instead of returning him to his Virginia master. He had openly declared that he would not obey the military, and so had encouraged desertion from the military forces. Surveyor Francis Jenkins of Worcester County, being ordered to lay out a town at the Whore Kill, had refused to follow the orders of the county commissioners, and had, instead, surveyed for Smith six hundred acres where the town should have been. But the Court returned to Jones' information an *ignoramus* or no true bill.

In their turn, Smith and Jenkins, who were members of the grand jury (*post*, p. 34) brought charges against Jones, charges on which the grand jury returned a true bill. Jones, with six or seven men, had gone up to the Whore Kill and had tied up all the Dutchmen he found there. He then opened their chests, took several furs and blankets and drank their aniseed water. On August 22, 1672, Jones had brought into the guard "Deere skins Wampum Peake Blankets Trading cloth powder pipes Knives looking glasses with severall ffurs . . . to the vallue of sixty pounds sterling". The day before this, Jones rode up to Robert Catlin, drew his sword, called Catlin scurrilous names and ran his sword through Catlin's clothing to his skin, all because he had accidentally taken Jones a little out of their way. When someone complained to Smith that Jones had taken and not returned a pound of gunpowder from an Englishman, Jones called Smith a liar, and refused to show him his commission as Indian trader. Smith charged also that, on August 24, 1672, Jones had ordered Constable Daniel Browne to seize "two of my Mares with severall others Notwithstanding they had been there as by information at least two yeares" (*post*, p. 38). If these mares seized from Smith were the same as those Jones told the Court he had seized at the Whore Kill in August, it would be easy to understand Smith's feeling about Jones. Smith was, himself, something of a hothead. While he was a member of the grand jury, he called Raymond Staplefort, foreman of a later grand jury, a hog stealer, and for this abuse he was fined by the Court four hundred pounds of tobacco (*ibid.*, p. 45). Jones, being sheriff of Somerset, had refused to attend the county court, and had refused to execute an order that court had directed to him (*ibid.*, pp. 37-38). A choleric fellow, that Thomas Jones.

Upon the finding of the true bill against Jones, the Provincial Court ordered that a copy of the amended information be sent him, and that he plead to it. The next day, October 7, 1672, Jones reported to the Attorney General that