

1676 before the Council, and as governor on April 17, 1677 before the Court. Although his Proprietary commission to be governor is on record (*ibid.*, pp. 132-135), there is no separate commission for him to be chief justice, but he was given all the powers Wharton had had, and his taking the oath of chief justice was the first piece of business at the November 1676 session of the Court (*post*, p. 315). Philip Calvert continued to be chancellor and commissary general. William Calvert was the principal secretary of the Province. Baker Brooke remained surveyor general. Thomas Taylor was not only justice and Council member, but also sheriff of Dorchester County. He and the Chancellor were frequently called upon to receive the acknowledgments of documents (*post*, pp. 180, 182, 190-191). Major Benjamin Rozer, member of the Council and sheriff of Charles County, is the only new member of the Court. He was sworn in as councillor and justice on April 18, 1677 (*post*, p. 424), just ten days before the Court adjourned. Henry Coursey, who had been a justice from 1660 to 1670, appeared again in the Court on November 28, 1676, and took his seat without ceremony (*post*, p. 315). Samuel Chew, though he was named by the Proprietary as a justice, never took the oath and never attended (*post*, p. 141).

The Court sat, as before, every three months, except in summer, and except on Sunday and Monday. The session of February 9-12, 1675/6 met at St. John's, at the Governor's palace, but all the other sessions were held at St. Mary's, the regular place of meeting. The attendance of the justices was not good. Chancellor Philip Calvert and Secretary William Calvert were always present, but on one occasion, only they showed up, and the Court was adjourned for a day. There had to be at least four justices to constitute a court. Surveyor Baker Brooke was present at five out of seven meetings. Col. Jesse Wharton was faithful until he died, and his successor, Thomas Notley attended after he was appointed. Thomas Taillor attended only once, but he was sheriff of Dorchester County and the Court met on the western shore. Maj. Rozer, sworn in as justice shortly before the end of the session, appears in the record but once thereafter. On April 21, 1677 the new sheriff of St. Mary's County, Captain Gerard Slye took "the Oath of fidelity to his Lordship the Lord Propy of this Province & the Oath of Sheriff of s<sup>t</sup> Maries County before the Hon<sup>ble</sup> W<sup>m</sup> Calvert Esq<sup>r</sup> Secy & Major Benjamin Rozer justices of this Court." (*post*, p. 475). In these years there were almost no criminal cases, and of course none of the sessions of the Court open with the formula used for them (For that formula see *Archives*, LXV, pp. 1, 8, 11, 16, 22, 30, 33, 43, 58). There is one case where the defendant was acquitted by proclamation (*post*, p. 290), but there is no other recorded mention of the case. There were three or four cases where apparently a crime had been committed, but they figure here only as the background of a civil suit for damages, or for escheats of land to the Proprietary. The great majority of the cases were original: only two cases came up on appeal (Henry Stockett *v.* Thomas Bland, *post*, p. 457; and Samuel Bagbey *v.* Thomas Smethwick, *post*, p. 488), and two on writ of error (Robert Paca *v.* Henry Stockett, *post*, 295, 436; Executors of Thomas Howell *v.* George Wells, p. 489), and these cases were not