

Edward Batson (d. 1711) of Calvert County served as deputy surveyor in Calvert and Anne Arundel Counties in the early 1690's. He was clerk of the Prerogative Office in 1698–99, resigning to become clerk of the court in Charles County, an office he held only briefly. In 1698 he was commissioned clerk to "The Governor and Council in The Court of Appeals and writs of error held before them". In 1698–99 he was naval officer of Annapolis.

Josias Towgood (d. 1737) was commissioned a justice in Anne Arundel County in 1702.

Stephen Blatchford (d. 1698), was a freeman of Saint Marys, a deputy clerk (clerk assistant) of the Council (admitted 1694) and in May 1698 became a deputy clerk of the Prerogative Office or deputy register.

Clerk of the Court

In August 1695 by order of the Governor and Council William Cooper was appointed and constituted "Clerke of Prince Georges County, he Yeilding and paying unto the honorable Sir Thomas Laurence Baronet Secretary the full Tenth part of the Profits and perquisites as other County Clerks doe pay and Satisfy and Reserving the Residue to his own proper use and behoofe as other County Clerks doe hold and enjoy the same and that he fit himself with necessaries for his Office and prepare his security against the time limited and appointed by the Act of Assembly for the said County to Commence."³⁰

Accordingly, the April 22, 1696 commission to the justices made reference to the appointment of William Cooper as clerk and keeper of the records of Prince Georges County. However, Cooper never entered upon his duties to any great extent. At the commencement of the August 1696 court he was ordered to provide himself with a deputy since he was disabled by sickness from performing his office; a few days later he was dead. Upon Cooper's death the sheriff was ordered by the court to take into custody all the county records at Cooper's lodgings and turn them over to Robert Bradley until a clerk be appointed by lawful authority. William Bladen, clerk of the indictments, was then requested to recommend Joshua Cecil to the governor as fit and capable for the position of clerk and keeper of the records.³¹

At the September 1696 session the court ordered that its records be kept in a chest at David Small's store and that Cecil, clerk by order of the justices, have access to such records for county purposes, Cecil binding himself in the sum of £100 sterling not to embezzle any part of such records. Later, at the same session Cecil presented to the court a commission from the secretary of the province to be clerk of Prince Georges County. Upon taking the usual oaths provided by act of Parliament and the oath of a clerk, Cecil was admitted as clerk of Prince Georges County Court. (Apparently the designations "clerk of Prince Georges County" and "clerk of Prince Georges County Court" were used interchangeably.)³²

The first direction to the clerk appears at the November 1696 court when it was ordered that "the Clerke of this Court Reads the minitts of the Court that he makes to the Court as they are Entred." However, the records were apparently not kept up to date, for at the March 1696/7 court the justices, in reply to a letter from Sir Thomas Lawrence, secretary of the Province, asking them to cause the records to be inspected to see if they were neglected, represented that by reason of the illness and

30. 20 *id.* 283. From St. Marys County, Cooper, in May 1695, had been chosen assistant clerk of the Committee of Laws of the House of Delegates. 19 *id.* 174. He was also admitted an attorney of the Provincial Court.

31. *Infra* 22, 38.

32. *Infra* 42–43, 63.