

1689, they were probably paid out of the duty on tobacco, but during the royal government, from 1692 to 1715, they were paid out of the poll tax.

There seem to have been trained lawyers at all times during the existence of the province to prepare and present matters to the courts for decision. Sams and Riley³¹ list a large number of the early seventeenth century, but it seems questionable whether all of those named were men of special training in the law; some of them may have been merely men of better education generally who lent their assistance to less able men involved in litigation, although all appear to have performed some of the functions of regular attorneys. But however that may be, there were regular lawyers in the province from its beginning. John Lewger, who came in 1637 as a special agent of Lord Baltimore, was a lawyer; and he became Attorney General, a member of the Council, and also a justice of the Provincial Court. In 1672, Governor Charles Calvert, writing to the Lord Proprietor, described John Morecroft as the best lawyer in the country.³² And Captain Thomas Gerrard who maintained the court leet and court baron at St. Clement's Manor, the records of which for the years 1659 to 1672 have been preserved, appears to have been trained in the law; and he named a son Justinian. The number of lawyers increased as the century wore on, so that by 1690 they formed an influential body in the province. Several of them had been educated at the Inns of Court; and we have evidence of the possession by them of a con-

31. Sams & Riley, Bench and Bar of Md., Vol. 1.

32. Mereness, 215.