

Trade and Plantations in 1773, made up by James Brooks, who included among his offices that of Clerk of the Court of Appeals, the Provincial Court is described as "the Supreme Court of Law called the Provincial Court, which is held twice every year at Annapolis".⁴⁴ Four judges who sat on the General Court were appointed to the Supreme Court of the United States: Robert Hanson Harrison,⁴⁵ Thomas Johnson, Samuel Chase and Gabriel Duvall; but no judge of the Court of Appeals was ever appointed to that court. The General Court, like the Provincial Court, is mentioned frequently in contemporary writings, and always with an evident sense of importance in the institution; but there is very little mention of the Court of Appeals at all. Taney, for instance, in the autobiographical section which he wrote for Tyler's *Memoirs*⁴⁶ speaks only of the General Court as that which drew the lawyers and students to Annapolis in 1796, and he describes the sittings of the General Court in some detail, while he makes no mention of the Court of Appeals of the time.

44. Md. Hist. Mag. II, 362.

45. Judge Harrison had been General Washington's military private secretary from 1775 to 1781, and was one of the first selected for the new Supreme Court in 1789. General Washington wrote to him urging him to accept, to satisfy those anxious for the respect of the Supreme Court, and Hamilton wrote, "If it be possible, my dear Harrison, give yourself up to us. We want men like you. They are rare at all times." But Judge Harrison finally declined and continued at the head of the General Court until his death, April 2, 1790. Warren, *The Supreme Court in United States History*, I, 42. It is sometimes stated that he declined the appointment to the Supreme Court because of a preference for the office of Chancellor of the state to which he was appointed at about the same time, but that is a mistake; Judge Harrison's letter declining the appointment as Chancellor is in existence, and he never resigned his seat on the General Court. Thomas Johnson, his successor on the General Court, was not appointed until after Judge Harrison's death.

46. Tyler, *Memoir of Roger B. Taney*, 58.