

be competent to certify the character and qualification of officers equally with the aforesaid clerks.

It is not the duty of the secretary of state to preserve a record of the oaths and signatures of the officers. The only authority given to the secretary of state by the act of 1852, ch. 172, to certify, relates to the class of officers named in this section. *Harwood v. Marshall*, 9 Md. 102.

1904, art. 70, sec. 13. 1888, art. 70, sec. 12. 1860, art. 68, sec. 12.
1779, ch. 25, sec. 9.

13. All deputies and under-clerks of the clerks of any of the courts in this State, of the registers of wills, commissioner of the land office and sheriffs, before they enter upon the duties of their several offices, shall severally take and subscribe the following oath: I, A. B., do swear that I will not for lucre or malice delay any person applying to me for any business belonging to the office I officiate in, and that I will not directly or indirectly ask, take, exact, demand or receive from or charge to any such person to my own use any fee or reward whatsoever for any services I may do as deputy of the said office, and that in making out the office fees I will not wittingly or willingly charge other or higher fees than are allowed by law.