

COMMONWEALTH ASSEMBLY OF 1652¹

Richard Bennett, commissioner of Parliament
William Claiborne, commissioner of Parliament

June 24–28, 1652(?)¹

¹ The Bennett-Claiborne commission issued a call on March 29, 1652, for elections to be held for an Assembly to meet on June 24, 1652. At least one election, that of Thomas Gerard to represent St. Mary's County, was held on June 12. It is unclear if the Assembly ever convened, although Gerard did later sue to recover his expenses. On June 28 the reinstated proprietary officials declared "there is no Absolute necessity of a General Assembly at present."

PROVINCIAL PARLIAMENTARY COMMISSIONERS OF 1654–1657/58¹

Richard Bennett, commissioner of Parliament
William Claiborne, commissioner of Parliament

July 22, 1654–March 24, 1657/58

William Fuller	John Hatch	Sampson Waring	Thomas Thomas
Richard Preston	Richard Wells	Michael Brooke	Philip Thomas
William Durand	Richard Ewen	John Pott	Samuel Withers
Edward Lloyd	William Parker	Woodman Stockley	Richard Woolman
John Smith	Robert Slye	William Parrott	
Leonard Strong	Thomas Meeres	Philip Morgan	
John Lawson	Thomas Marsh	William Ewen	

¹ Richard Bennett and William Claiborne, with authorization from the Puritan government in England, issued an ordinance July 22, 1654, to ten Marylanders as commissioners "for the well Ordering, directing and Governing the affairs of Maryland" with powers that included the right to summon assemblies. Later additions to the body of commissioners were Parker (October 20, 1654), Slye (April 24, 1655), Meeres and Marsh (June 26, 1655), Waring, Brooke, Pott, and Stockley (August 13, 1655), Parrott (March 23, 1656/57), and Morgan, Ewen, the two Thomases, Withers, and Woolman (by spring, 1657). Thomas Marsh died in 1656/57 and Leonard Strong was serving as agent in England ca. 1655, but the other commissioners presumably remained active. The records, however, are incomplete and therefore the full service of all the commissioners cannot be established. The commissioners surrendered their powers to the restored proprietary government March 24, 1657/58.

COMMONWEALTH ASSEMBLY OF 1654¹

Richard Bennett, commissioner of Parliament
William Claiborne, commissioner of Parliament

October (?)–20, 1654

POTOMAC (ST. MARY'S) ²	KENT	Leonard Strong	Richard Ewen
John Hatch	Thomas Hynson	Richard Wells	William Parker
Thomas Hatton (Dc1)	Joseph Wickes	William Durand	Sampson Waring
Job Chandler (Dc1)		Edward Lloyd	James Berry
Arthur Turner (E)	PROVIDENCE		William Ewen
John Wade (E)	(ANNE ARUNDEL)	PATUXENT (CALVERT)	
	William Fuller	Richard Preston, speaker	

¹ The Assembly, under the Puritan government of the parliamentary commissioners, was unicameral.

² Thomas Hatton and Job Chandler declined to serve because of their previous oaths to Lord Baltimore. They were replaced by Arthur Turner and John Wade.