

to this date, and subsequent to it references are frequent. At this time there were St. Mary's, Calvert, and Anne Arundel and Charles counties on the Western Shore, and Kent County on the Eastern. The scattered inhabitants on either side of the bay from the Patapsco and Sassafras rivers had no nearby county seat in which to transact their business.

The earliest settlements within the territory of the original Baltimore County were probably those on Palmer's Island at the mouth of the Susquehanna River where Claiborne and his followers had established trading settlements as early as 1627-28. In 1652 in the treaty between the Susquehanna Indians and the Marylanders the right of settlement had been granted as far north as this point. Settlements subsequent to that of Claiborne were few and scattered until after the conclusion of this treaty, but in the decades between 1660 and 1680 the development of the territory around the shores of the head of the Bay was rapid, much of it taking place under the leadership of Augustine Herrman, who became the leading man of the region. Herrman was granted a letter of denization as early as 1660 and during succeeding years was a justice of Baltimore County. Settlements were formed at this time along the shores of Northeast creek and the estuaries off of Elk River and occasionally tracts were taken up along the shores of what is now Harford County. The center of population for the new county of Baltimore lay about the head of the Bay outside of the territory now included within the present county of the same name.

As early as 1661 the court of Baltimore County was held at Captain Howell's, near Howell's Point, below the mouth of the Sassafras River. A few years later, in 1664, Baltimore County court met at Carpenter's Point on the Northeast River and from 1674 to 1768 the county seat of Baltimore was within the present confines of Harford County. It was not until after the election of 1768 that the county seat was situated within the territory of the present Baltimore County.

Such widely scattered sites for the holding of the county court naturally leads to the question as to what were the original limits of Baltimore County. No terms are given in the records prior to the proclamation of 1674 erecting Cecil County. It is therefore necessary to