

upper side of the Indian and Bird creeks where the upper bounds of St. Mary's county end and

"Extend it selfe upwards as farr as Mattawoman Creek and branch and bounding on the said Branch by a straight line Drawn from the head thereof to the head of Swansons Creek in Putuxent River including all that Land lying on the uper part of Birds Creek and Indian Creek Branches where St. Marys County Ends to the Lower side of Mattawoman Creek and Branch & Swansons Creek and Branch between Putuxent and Potomock Rivers as aforesaid."

The territory lying north of the northern boundary of Charles County was included within the newly-erected Prince George's County. Just why the small neck between Swansons and Indian creeks on the Patuxent River was included within Charles County is hard to say. It was probably due to the use of natural bounds and the ignorance of local geography. Such few settlers as may have been upon the neck would have preferred to retain their allegiance to Calvert County rather than attend court after long journeys through the woods or around Point Lookout, if they went by water. The extent of settlements along the Potomac was practically coextensive with the limits of Charles County, since there existed at the time an agreement with the Indians by which the whites were not to settle upon Mattawoman Creek. The agreement, however, was not observed for many years as the erection of Prince George's County and the settlements along Rock Creek in the District of Columbia began about this time.

The bounds of Charles County established by the act of 1695 have suffered but one modification since their original creation. This was in 1748 when, according to Chapter 14 of the laws of that date, at the request of certain inhabitants in the lower part of Prince George's County part of the territory in question was transferred to Charles County. The new boundary was defined to be:

"a Line drawn from *Mattawoman*run, in the Road commonly called the *Rolling Road*, that leads from the late Dwelling Plantation of Mr. *Edward Neale*, through the lower Part of Mr. *Peter Dent's* Dwelling Plantation, until it strikes Patowmack River, at or near the bounded Tree of a Tract of Land whereon *John Beall*, junior lives (standing on the Bank of the aforesaid River, at the lower end of the aforesaid River, at the lower End of the aforesaid *Beall's* Plantation)."