

Patuxent had a more southerly course above Laurel than it has. It was clearly intended by the law that the major part of what is now Howard County should have been retained in Baltimore County. This instance is a good illustration of the way in which boundaries changed with increasing knowledge without any change in law. As information accumulated regarding the little known wooded courses of the Patuxent and Patapsco it became evident that each river headed farther north and west than had been supposed and that the "north line" must be moved farther and farther west to intersect the head of Snowden River. This movement westward continued until all of the territory between the two rivers was included in Anne Arundel County where it remained until the action of the Constitutional Convention of 1850 made Howard District, as defined in 1838, Howard County. According to the law of 1726 the jurisdiction and control of the Patapsco River is with Baltimore and Carroll counties since the south side of the river is definitely specified as the boundary.

Since the erection of Howard County only two counties, Wicomico and Garrett, have been erected within the State and each of these is separated at considerable distance from Howard County so that the latter has received no modification of its territory since the time of its erection.

#### HOWARD COUNTY ELECTION DISTRICTS.

- Included in Anne Arundel County until 1850. See 1820 Ch. 168, 1822 Ch. 116, 1834 Ch. 186.
- 1838 Ch. 22. Howard District laid off as a municipal district from Anne Arundel County.
- 1841 Ch. 13. Polling place of 7th election district established at Cooksville.
- 1843 Ch. 195. Commissioners appointed to lay off county into five election districts.
- 1844 Ch. 69. Polling place for 3rd election district at Israel McKenzie's house. Divisional line between the said third and fourth election districts of said Howard District be and the same is hereby established as follows, to wit: From the entrance of General Hood's lane on the Frederick turnpike road, with and bounding on the road leading to Hobb's mill to the south termination of the lane between Perry G. Hobb's and Robert Hobbs, thence with a straight line to William Wesley Scrivnor's house, leaving him in the fourth district, and thence with a straight line to John Elder's, leaving him in the third district.