

over the growing settlements about the mouth of the Choptank. No exact limits separating these two counties can be given as the order or Act by which Talbot was erected has not been found, the earliest reference to the same being the temporary appointment of Mr. Moyses Stagwell as sheriff of Talbot County February 18, 1661-2, upon which date there were also appointed county commissioners (Md. Arch., 1:425; 3:448). The only exception to this generalization that Eastern Bay was the dividing line appears to be with regard to Poplar Island, which was joined to Kent County according to the following enactment passed the 24th September, 1657 (Md. Arch., 1:361):

"It is Enacted and declared in the Name of his highness the Lord protector of England &c and by the Authority of this present Generall Assembly That the Island commonly called Poppers Island Lying near unto the Island of Kent be adjoynd unto the County of Kent, and from hence forth be of all persons so accounted, and taken to be . . . ."

Subsequently by proclamation,\* dated June 21, 1671, "the northeast side of Chester as far as the bounds of Talbot county were formerly on that side" was added to Kent county. The first sharp statements of the boundary line between Talbot and Kent, occur in the Act passed May 22, 1695, which enacted

"That from and after the Twenty third day of April next [1696] after the end of this present Sessions of Assembly the Island of Kent shall be added to and made part of Talbott County and Deemed reputed and Taken as part thereof And That that part of Talbott County lying on the North side of Corsecia Creek running up the main Eastern Branch to the head thereof and then with a Course drawn East to the out side of this Province shall be the Southerly Bounds of the County of Kent and on the North by the County of Cecil any Law Statute or usage heretofore to the Contrary notwithstanding."

By this Act Kent Island, which had given the name to the county, was removed from its jurisdiction and the name Kent became limited to the territory which had subsequently been settled.

The northern boundary of Kent County was first determined by proclamation of Charles Calvert on the 6th of June, 1674, when it was decreed

"that from the mouth of the Susquehanough River and so downe the easterne side of Chesepeake Bay to Swan point and from thence to Hell point and so up Chester River to the head thereof"

\* Kent County Land Rec., Lib. A, No. 1, p. 54.