

d. Naval Officer of Annapolis.

1. Capt. Richard Hill of Anne Arundel County (Prot.), com. by Gov. Nicholson 18 Oct. 1694; dismissed 20 July 1696 (AM, XX, 160, 471).
2. Henry Denton of Annapolis (Prot.), succeeded Hill; gave bond 10 Oct. 1696 (AM, XIX, 470; XX, 525); died in April, 1698.
3. Edward Watson of Calvert County (Prot.), com. and sworn 30 June 1698 (AM, XXIII, 437); resigned shortly thereafter.
4. Col. William Bladen of Annapolis (Prot., wife Cath.), com. 22 March 1698/9 (AM, XIV, 71); resigned in favor of Steele just before his death.
5. John Steele of Annapolis (Prot.). By act of 10 May 1718 Steele was exempted from a law requiring three years prior residence for office holders, because he had been recommended to Lt. Gov. Hart "by Gent^l of worth and Honour who by their Stations under his most Sacred Majesty are in a Capacity of doing particular Services to this province" He was then appointed to this Naval Office (AM, XXVIII, 282; XXIII, 153), but he resigned or died within a year.
6. Benjamin Tasker, Sr. of Annapolis (Prot., wife's mother Cath., son-in-law of William Bladen above), succeeded Steele prior to 23 May 1719 (AM, XLII, 40); recom. 25 July 1733; resigned in favor of his son in September, 1742.
7. Col. Benjamin Tasker, Jr. of Annapolis (Prot.), com. 29 Sept. 1742 (Commission Book No. 82, f. 95); resigned to be Deputy Secretary in December, 1755.