

By the Hon^{ble} Ex^{rs} of the County of Down in Assembly July 4th 1696.
 Proposed that an Ordinance pass to oblige the Justices of the severall County Courts to sit in Court twice a week
 in summer and eight in winter every day (otherwise to be paid accordingly) and that the Court be held at such
 of their Compling houses as the Justices are present or absent and that they continue unless upon
 extraordinary Occasion.

The whole Proposall considered from the house this viz
 The house are of Opinion that the Compliers of the severall County Courts are by their Oath justly obliged to do
 their duties and dispatch business without any restriction, especially considering that the Compliers have power to fine
 their Brethren on Omittiny their duties.
 Signed by Order W. Bladen Esq^r of the Assembly.

The whole being read the Ex^{rs} was pleased to say that he hoped the Compliers would for his Majesties service and
 their own Credit duly observe to comply with the said proposal and do'd Order (by advice in Council) as it is hereby
 Ordered, that the Clerk of the said County Court keep an exact account of the Justices sitting from time to time to be returned
 unto the Ex^{rs} at the Port of Annapolis together with Copy of the County Court by the Ex^{rs} Expressing the reason of every
 Particular default allowed
 Signed by Order Hon^{ble} Donlon Esq^r of the Council

Then was read an Order Concerning Marriages, and another for taking publick Justice food

By the Hon^{ble} Ex^{rs} of the County of Down July the 17th 1696.
 Upon Complaint by severall Persons ma^{de} of the very great abuses done to the Country through the Constables
 remissness & negligence in taking the list of Cattle. Ordered that the Sheriff of the County be desired to
 of the severall Constables in August Court next that they issue strict Order & Charge forthwith to the Constables
 of each hundred within their respective Counties hereby Commanding them to goe to every individual house
 of the said hundreds in which they officiate & take an account from the Master M^{rs} or Owners of
 every such house in Writing under such Master M^{rs} or Owners own hand, what Number of Cattle
 they have, what is left taken they are to close Seal up (after Copy thereof made for the County Court) and
 the same unto the Ex^{rs} at the Port of Annapolis by the 16th day of the next (if the Assembly then sitte)
 otherwise by the first day of the next Provinciall Court under pain of being prosecuted to the utmost severity
 of the Law for Contempt.
 Signed by Order Hon^{ble} Donlon Esq^r of the Council.

The aforesaid Order being read, it was Ordered by the Hon^{ble} Council that Orders pursuant to the aforesaid Order do
 forthwith issue to every Constable. Which order is as followeth.

By Virtue of an Order from the Ex^{rs} of the County of Down July 17th 1696. Was do'd hereby Order strictly charge & Command
 that the Constables of each hundred within their respective Counties, to goe to every individual house of the said hundreds
 in which they officiate, and take an account from the Master M^{rs} or Owners own hand what Number of
 Cattle they have, what is left taken when taken they are to close Seal up after Copy thereof made for the County Court
 and transmit the same unto the Ex^{rs} at the Port of Annapolis by the 16th day of the next (if the Assembly then sitte)
 otherwise by the first day of the next Provinciall Court under pain of being prosecuted to the utmost severity of the Law for contempt.
 Signed by Order