

The following return received from Prince Georges County

We the undersigned two of the Justices of the Peace for Prince Georges County do hereby certify that we were duly summoned by John Deall Esq. Sheriff of said County to attend the Election of Delegates for the County on the first Monday of the present month of October and that we attended according to the said summons and that we administered an Oath to Mr. Silburn Williams of the said County to receive the Ballots for the Election of two persons for the office of Sheriff for the said County and we further certify that an Election was held at the same time and place of holding the Election for Delegates for the said County for the Election of two persons for the office of Sheriff for the County aforesaid and that after closing of the said Election the Ballots taken by Silburn Williams by us appointed and sworn Clerk for the taking and receiving the Ballots were examined and counted by him and we do further certify from the Deposition and Testificate of the said Silburn Williams that there appeared for Nicholas Blacklock One thousand and twenty eight Ballots & for William Deall seven hundred and ninety two, and therefore we do hereby certify that it appeared to us that the said Nicholas Blacklock had a majority of legal Ballots and we hereby return him to your Excellency and Honor as properly qualified and duly elected for the office of Sheriff for Prince Georges County as Witness our hands and seals this Twenty second Day of October 1785.

David Frausford
Sam Hepburn

To His Excellency William Paro Esq
and the Honble The Council of Maryland

And on consideration thereof were of opinion that the Examination and casting up of the Ballots was an Authority vested by the Constitution in the Judges of the Election and being of a Judicial Nature could not be communicated to, or exercised by the Clerks, and it appearing by the said Return that the Ballots in the above Case were not examined or cast up by the Judges but by the Clerks it was thereupon adjudged that the said Return was illegal & the Election void and that a new writ of Election issue for a Sheriff for said County - and a new writ issued accordingly. -

The Council adjourned till tomorrow morning 11 Clocks -