

Upper Marlboro
March 31st 1853

Nathaniel Cox Esq
Secretary of State, Annapolis

Dear Sir:

Will you please inform me by return mail when Elisha Perry was last commissioned as a justice in this County - it appears that he sworn in here in June 1849, since then there is no record of his being afterwards commissioned. What is the understanding of Law of your Office as to the duration of a Commission of Justice of the Peace? Does it under the Old Constitution authorize the appointee of 1849 to act as Magistrate in 1853?

Very respectfully
Yours Obedient
Daniel C. Dugges

State of Maryland
Executive Department
Annapolis April 3rd 1853

To
Daniel C. Dugges,
State Attorney for Prince Georges County

Dear Sir:

In reference to the record of Executive appointments, I find that the date of the last Commission to Elisha Perry for Justice of the Peace in Prince Georges County bears date the 30th April 1852.

Under the Act of 1852 ch. 274 passed in pursuance of the 19th Sec. of the 4th Article of the Constitution, it is provided that at the next General election for Delegates & at each general election thereafter there shall be elected for the several election districts in each County "a certain number of Magistrate therein named. From the time specified in the above Act for the general election for Delegates & Justices of the Peace, allowing thirty days as prescribed by the Act of 1852 ch. 172, within which time persons elected, or appointed to office are allowed to qualify, this Department has considered that the term of office of Justice of the Peace under the Old Constitution expired; & has filled vacancies occurring from failure to elect or to qualify, death, resignation or absence by Executive appointment.

Very Respectfully Yrs
J. Watkins Sigon