

Maryland

The Council in a General Assembly met and held at the Port of Annapolis pursuant to Proclamation the 26 day of May in the ninth year of that reign of our Sovereign Lord King William the third & Anno Domini 1697 and by Order of his Excellency Proclam'd under bearing date the Sunday day of February last past being the eighth Sessions and then continued until the 11 day of June after Present

His Excellency Francis Nicholson Esq. Captain General &c
Sir Thomas Lawrence Baronet Secretary Col. Henry Jones Col. Nicholas Greenberry

It being signified that the House was met and sat pursuant to the above Proclamation it is considered that the first thing they go upon to view the publick buildings &c within this Port in order to give their opinion thereabout whether the same be substantial & Workmanlike and that the several Articles of Agreement Bill of Lading for the Church the Justices of the Provincial Court and Grand Jurisdiction upon all the said Buildings & and all other papers relating thereto be laid before them for their better Satisfaction the which was accordingly done and sent by the Clerk of this Board the Returns and say he delivered the same

Thursday May the 27 1697 The Council again sat and were Present
His Excellency Francis Nicholson Esq. Captain General &c

Sir Thomas Lawrence Baronet Secretary Col. Henry Jones
Col. Nicholas Greenberry Col. Charles Hutchins

Came from the House of Burgesses Mr James Cranford and Mayor Walter Smith who signify that they were sent from the House to acquaint his Excellency that the House are sitting and desire to know the cause of this their appearance who are told that something shall be sent presently

They present by Order of the House Mr John Low a new member elected for St. Marys County to be sworn who had accordingly administered unto him the oaths appointed by Act of Parliament to be taken instead of the Oaths of Allegiance and Supremacy and also subscribed to the Test

The opinion of the House in relation to the publick Building was returned as follows viz^t May the 27 1697

The House of Delegates do concur with the Justices of the Provincial Court and Grand Jury that the same is Good Substantial Rough work and that they approve thereof
W. Bladen Esq. Delegates

1 Taken into Consideration several proposals to be laid before the House his Excellency being pleased to say that the chief Reason for calling the Assembly at this time was in the matter about the noise of the Indians and in particular the Piscataway Indians lately deserting their Fort and withdrawing themselves into another Government which it is Imagined to proceed chiefly from a murder lately committed at the Eastern Branch of Potomack upon the Body of a certain Negro Boy belonging to one Mr. Stoddert against whom it is believed they had some Grudge upon the Account of Trade proposed therefore that the same be laid before the House for their Consideration Recommending some Law to be made for preventing like future evils and that some measures may be taken as to the present Circumstance of Affairs

2 Proposed that the Militia of the Province be modell'd anew it being deemed impossible that the present Act in force about the same should be complied with by means of the Poverty of the People It is therefore Recommended that some new Act be made whereby every fourth or five Taxables may be Oblig'd to find a Trooper Dragoon or Footman according as it shall be Agreed upon with necessity

This Board do Consider that the Countries Credit is much undervalued and impaired chiefly occasioned by means of the Sheriff's not punctually Complying the publick dues &c for redress whereof it is proposed that 2. 3 or more substantial Persons be appointed