

various officials. As a court of record a number of deeds and mortgages are to be found enrolled. In two instances delivery of land by seizin with turf and twig is mentioned in the deed. The Court of Chancery, however, was used less than the Provincial Court for recording deeds and mortgages.

Writs of error or of *certiorari* directed to the county courts or the Provincial Court, ordering that cases be sent up for rehearing from these courts respectively to the Provincial Court, or to the Upper House sitting as the highest appellate court, are quite numerous, and as they passed under the Great Seal are to be found recorded in the Chancery Court proceedings. It is to be noted that during this period, and in fact until 1718, final decrees of the Chancery Court were not subject to appeal and review by the Governor and Council in the Upper House, or after 1695 by the Council sitting as a Court of Appeals, as were the decisions of the Provincial Court, although a very few cases in which the Court of Chancery had restrained proceedings at law, found their way on appeal to the Council. It should be remembered, however, that any case decided in the higher courts of the Province which involved more than £300 sterling might be appealed to the King and the Privy Council of England.

As measured by the bulk of the papers, the most voluminous entries among these Chancery records are those involving the inheritance of land, and are the writs known as *diem clausit extremum*, and *mandamus*, which are orders to make inquiry as to the ownership of land lately held by a person supposed to have died without lawful heirs, and instituted with a view to a possible escheat of such land to the Lord Proprietary, these writs being followed by an *inquisition post mortem* with a record of the findings of the jury of inquiry, and the judgement of the court. A very large number of these writs and inquisitions are recorded and they give valuable insight not only as to the lands in question but as to their former owners. Perhaps a fourth of the material found in this volume is of this character. Judge Bond gives an interesting description of these writs and inquisitions in his Introduction to the Legal Procedure.

Among the pardons granted by the Lord Proprietary was one to a man sentenced to death nine years before in the Provincial Court, but whose sentence had been suspended by the Governor in open court, and who, in modern parlance, had then been released on probation. Although the story of Pope Alvey, a cooper of St. Mary's County, and of his two trials in 1664 and 1665 for two separate offences, is reported at considerable length in an earlier volume of the *Archives*, for some reason the record of the case entered in the Proceedings of the Chancery Court at the time when the Governor's pardon passed the Great Seal, July 7, 1674, is given here in even greater detail than it is in