

drinking in their "bousing cups" three barrels of beer at a funeral, and by hiring a boat to fetch the drink for this same "merry meeting"; and whether the 36 yards of black "Ribining" would help to disguise Lee's "rejoyceing hart" with a "dolorous countenance". The jury rendered a verdict for Pope, the administrator, but before the court met again six weeks later a will made by Lenton was found, and with this in hand, under which Lee was appointed one of the "assistants" to the widow in handling her husband's estate, Lee again brought suit. On this occasion the plaintiff asked a jury trial, and as "assistant", won a verdict in his favor (pp. 193-195, 207, 213).

It is not possible to extend further this already lengthy survey of the contents of these court proceedings of Charles, Kent, Talbot and Somerset counties. A cursory examination of the old records, however, will show that many entries throwing an interesting light upon the social and economic life of Maryland for the third quarter of the seventeenth century have not been commented upon at all in these introductory notes. These county court records will prove to be invaluable source material for the student of colonial customs.