

# COUNTY COURT PROCEEDINGS

## SOMERSET COUNTY

Liber B No. 1 The first book of Somerset court records, originally styled Liber A, is now called Liber B No. 1. The recorded county court sessions began in December, 1665, with George Johnson as first clerk. A few months later, Johnson was superseded by the governor's appointee, Edmund Beauchamp. Johnson's court minutes probably are non-extant in their original state. The present liber was brought into service by Beauchamp, who copied Johnson's minutes into it, preceding his own records. Nearly all the contents of the liber are in Beauchamp's writing.

The liber now embraces 150 pages of court records, 5 pages of index thereto, and 42 pages of segregated earmark records. There is no indication of missing folios bearing record matter. The court proceedings were entered by Beauchamp up to the session of September, 1668. For these he made an index of 390 items, which is not here reproduced. Coincident with the recording of the court minutes Beauchamp made a separate registry of livestock earmarks and brands, by reversing the liber and working forward from the lattermost pages. This registry he continued until 1683. There still remained some small amount of blank space in the book, however, so that Clerk Alexander Hall, in 1717-1719 and again in 1722, was able to add about forty items to Beauchamp's earmarks. After that date the only record accretion was an entry of 1755 interpolated to supplement a former land transfer.

[p. 1] 1665 The booke of Records for the County of Sommersett in th<sup>e</sup> Province of Maryland beginning th<sup>e</sup> 11<sup>th</sup> daye of december in the yeare of our Lord God 1665

An order of Court th<sup>e</sup> 11<sup>th</sup> of December 1665 Before m<sup>r</sup> Stephen Horsey Capt William Thorne m<sup>r</sup> William Stephens m<sup>r</sup> George Johnson m<sup>r</sup> John Winder m<sup>r</sup> James Jones m<sup>r</sup> Henry Boston :

Thus Concluded th<sup>t</sup> Susana Brayfeeld is free from m<sup>r</sup> Randall Revell Likewise th<sup>e</sup> said Brayfeeld is to serue th<sup>e</sup> expiration of her fue yeares unto John Cooper

Randall Revell against Susanna Brayfeeld in an action of th<sup>e</sup> case th<sup>e</sup> 11<sup>th</sup> december 1665

Phillip Barre against William Furnis in an action of th<sup>e</sup> Case th<sup>e</sup> 11<sup>th</sup> december 1665 The same day a heareing was granted & th<sup>e</sup> Attourney for th<sup>e</sup> plaintiff Patrick Fleman prays a reference to th<sup>e</sup> next courte

John Johnson against Charles Ballard or Sarah Ballard in an action of th<sup>e</sup> Case th<sup>e</sup> 11<sup>th</sup> december 1665 th<sup>e</sup> same day a heareing was granted & William Wittfeeld in th<sup>e</sup> behalfe of th<sup>e</sup> aforesaid parties as from them prayed a reference