

Eastern Shore of Maryland, and was continued as a member of the first Somerset County Court, August 22, 1666. Jones was a Quaker, and the county records show that he hesitated for two weeks before reconciling his conscience to taking the oath of office which he finally took at St. Mary's City, on September 11th. He remained on the Somerset County Court until his death in 1677. He lived at "Jones Hole", his plantation on the Wicomico River.

Henry Boston (-1676), who was appointed one of the commissioners of the peace for the lower Eastern Shore on August 28, 1665, had probably come into Maryland from Virginia in 1662 or 1663. He was in Northampton County, Virginia, as early as 1655-1656. At the time Scarborough invaded the lower Eastern Shore in October 1663, Boston was one of the Annessex group who actively opposed the Virginia pretensions. When Somerset County was erected in August, 1666, he was reappointed as a justice for that county. Boston was an aggressive non-conformist and had been fined by the Northampton County Court in 1660 for the "simple foolish things" which he had uttered and for his "contempt for authority and speaking reproachful words". He does not seem to have been a Quaker, although he was in close affiliation with members of this sect in Annessex, where he lived on his plantation, "Boston-town", on the south side of the Great Annessex River. Here he died, September 24, 1676, and was buried.

Torrence says that Boston was indicted by the Somerset County grand jury in March 1671/2, and was brought before the county court, June 11, 1672, the grand jury having presented him for "entertaining the wife of Thomas Davis and Thomas Davis for disposing of his said wife to the said Boston". Boston was acquitted when he explained that he had simply hired Judith, the wife of Thomas Davis, a tailor, because Davis would not support her; but notwithstanding this there are said to be other records which show that Boston was the father of an illegitimate child by Judith Best before she became the wife of Thomas Davis. The situation had obviously given rise to more or less scandal in the neighborhood, but the county records of Somerset here printed do not extend to the date of this episode (Torrence's *Old Somerset*, pp. 321-322).

The earlier portions of the court records reproduced here, covering the first twenty or more printed pages, extending from December 11, 1665, to August 1666, and recording some five court sessions (pp. 610-632), while included in the first court "book of Somerset county" (Liber B No. 1), are described by the clerk as the record of "A Court houlden for th^t part of the Province of Maryland lying & being between Chaptanke & Watkins point". This opening entry is in the handwriting of George Johnson, one of the justices of the quorum, who acted as county clerk during the latter part of this pre-county period. A few weeks before Somerset County was formally established by proclamation on August 22, 1666, Edmund Beauchamp, sent by Gov. Charles Calvert to be clerk, was installed July 3, 1666 (p. 626), and his appointment was confirmed by the Governor in the proclamation erecting Somerset County (pp. 633-635; *Arch. Md. iii*, 553-555). Beauchamp was for some reason formally recommissioned again on January 29, 1666/7 (p. 657), and continued to serve as clerk of the court until his death, September 26, 1671, a period