

son or sons. He left no will, for his widow was appointed administratrix of his property and guardian of his heir. Part of the land he left was two thousand or more acres on Patuxent River, known as Brooke Court Manor or Aquasco, and it was this Brooke Court Manor that caused Mrs. Letchworth so much delay and trouble. When, after her husband's death, she went up river to it, she found it occupied by Bernard Johnson, a Dutch or German cooper. She warned Johnson off the land, which he claimed to have bought from John Abington. He did not leave, so she went there again, about 1673 (*post*, p. 423), and took witnesses with her. She summoned Johnson to the house of William Mills, and there, before two witnesses, forwarned him off the land on which he lived, "that you may goe now p^rsently off from itt." According to the testimony of one witness, Johnson delivered possession to Mrs. Letchworth, became her tenant for it, and agreed to pay her rent and to plant some trees on on it. This may or may not be the fact, but Johnson continued to trouble her about the land (for more light on Johnson's tenacity, see *Johnson v. Abington*, *Archives* LI, 521-526; *ibid.* LXVI, 389, 452). For that reason, she decided to get a settlement of the matter by the Provincial Court. October 6, 1677, she leased the land of which she had title but no possession, to Edward Ball, Calvert County planter. By virtue of the lease "the said Edward unto the said Manno^r Messuage & p^rmisses aforesaid entred & was in possession thereof", when, on November 1, 1677, Bernard Johnson "into the said Manno^r Messuage & p^rmisses . . . entred, & him from his possessions thereof did eject & other harmes to him did". For that damage to him and to the peace of the Proprietary, Ball sued Johnson for 20,000 pounds of tobacco. Johnson appeared by his attorney Christopher Rousby, and asked for and got a continuance until next court. When, on June 18, 1678, the Court met again, Ball appeared by his attorney, Robert Carvile, "& offered himself agt the said Bernard Johnson in the plea aforesaid but the said Bernard although solemnly called came not but made default. . . ." Then the Court restored to Ball the manor, messuage and land for the term of his demise. It awarded him damages also, but because it did not know the amount of the damage done, it gave him a writ of enquiry of damages, returnable next court. A look ahead into the proceedings of the next court shows (*liber* NN, ff. 727-728) that the sheriff of Calvert County reported on October 8, 1678, that he had given to Mrs. Letchworth quiet and lawful possession of the disputed land. However, her attorney, Robert Carvile, reported to the Court that same day that Johnson had forcibly reentered the land and had kept possession of the messuage and of the dwelling house. The Court ordered, October 14, 1678, that "any two of the Commission^rs of the said County who live neer unto the said land by force compell & turn the said Bernard Johnson from off the said land, & repossess the said Elizabeth of the said land & Messuages according to law." Later, on March 12, 1678/9 the jury summoned to enquire into the damages due to Edward Ball, Mrs. Letchworth's lessee, because of the acts of Johnson, met according to summons, and set the amount at 2500 pounds of tobacco, with costs of 1942 pounds (*liber* NN, ff. 812-813). In June 1679, Johnson appeared in court and when Col. Henry Darnall consented that the judgment for 2500 pounds of