

filed. Thomas Harris, Junior, of Annapolis, was appointed clerk of the court, and the sheriff of Anne Arundel County was ordered to attend the sittings in person or by deputy to preserve order. Members of the bar came in groups to be readmitted to practice before the court. And the court then heard its first argument, that in the case of John Baker v. The State, one of the cases brought on writ of error to the General Court.¹⁵ It was the first on a docket of three hundred and two cases in the Court of Appeals.

For its sessions on the Eastern Shore, the court was permanently housed in part of the court house at Easton, completed in 1794, still used by the Circuit Court for Talbot County, and previously used by the General Court for the Eastern Shore.¹⁶ James Earle, who had been clerk of the General Court for that shore for about twenty years, was, in December, 1806, made the first clerk of the Court of Appeals for the Eastern Shore.

The appointment of Thomas Harris, Junior, as clerk for the court on the Western Shore was an event of importance to the profession in Maryland. He was a man of extraordinary industry, and an exact workman; and he applied his labors to the benefit of the State in many directions. No one who delves in the archives of the court will long remain unfamiliar with his handwriting, for books and papers written by him abound. He had been born in Charles County in 1770. Since 1789 he had been a deputy clerk in the General Court, and he

15. 2 Harris & Johnson, 5.

16. A plan of having the General Court sit in a court house to be built at Dover, in Talbot County, was abandoned by authority, act of 1788, ch. 16.