

Colonel Richard Tilghman (1672-1738) of the "Hermitage", Queen Anne's County, succeeded Holland in 1721. Tilghman had held numerous important offices under the Provincial government but probably was not a lawyer by profession. His commission by the Proprietary was dated November 6, 1721, and was issued about the time Charles Calvert, a relative of the Proprietary, arrived in Maryland as Governor. The first record of Tilghman's presiding in court was, February 12, 1721/2, and he appears thereafter as Chancellor until early in 1725, when under date of February 16, 1724/5, in a new Chancery record book (I. R. No. I.), these rather amusing entries appear on the title page "The Following Letter is recorded at the Request of the Honourable Richard Tilghman, Esq. viz—D^r S^r As it is the Duty of Every man that has a Family to provide for these the best measure he can I'm persuaded you cannot take it amiss that after having given the Profits of the seales out of my own pocketts ever since my Arrival I now take them to myself (etc) * * * Y^r Obliged

Humble Servant
Cha' Calvert

With the assumption of the Chancellorship by Governor Charles Calvert in 1725, and which he held until 1727, we find during the remaining colonial period, and until the adoption of the first State constitution in 1776, that all the succeeding governors held the office of Chancellor. Benedict Leonard Calvert, brother of Charles the fifth Lord, was commissioned Governor and Chancellor in 1727. He remained in Maryland until 1731 when on account of ill-health he embarked for England, dying of consumption on the voyage home.

This résumé of the Chancellery of Maryland covers the first century following the granting of the charter in 1632. The records, both printed and in manuscript, from which these notes have been taken, are practically unindexed and have required a page by page search. There are many gaps, especially during the Parliamentary disturbances, and again in the 1690-1730 period, in the records of the Council, which, if in existence, would doubtless throw additional light upon the development of the court of the Chancellor during these periods. By 1730 its functions and scope had assumed the form which it continued to have down to the Revolution, and with a few unimportant changes, until it was abolished in 1854 by the Constitution of 1851. While no detailed sketch of the Court of Chancery and of the Chancellor during its first century has hitherto appeared in print, David M. Newbold, Jr. in his *Notes on the Introduction of Equity Jurisdiction into Maryland 1634-1720*, Baltimore, 1906, touches upon some of the aspects of its development and discusses a few early equity cases recorded in the published proceedings of the Provincial Court. The story of the last hundred and twenty years of its total life of two hundred and twenty years, may be learned from a study of the manuscript books and records in Annapolis recording its proceedings, from the printed reports of Chancellor Theoderick Bland and other later chancellors, and from Maryland law reports covering this later period.