

Some light is thrown from chance references in these county records upon many phases of the *social life* of the Province. From the very involved testimony in a suit brought by Thomas Hill against Joseph Wickes in the Kent County Court, August 1, 1657, it would appear that Mrs. Thomas Hynson, the wife of one of the justices, taught young Hill, and possibly some other neighbors' boys, and that Wickes had a maid who also could teach. We likewise learn from the testimony that at the wedding in 1655 of young Thomas Hill, Mr. Wickes had tried to persuade the groom's father to give a plantation or cattle to the "new beginners", and that several others at the wedding gave presents of "somes of tobacco" to the young couple (*Arch. Md. liv*, 109-110). A suit brought at the August 20, 1658 session by Mr. Thomas Lomax, later clerk of the Charles County Court, against Mr. Edward Packer, for "satisfaction . . . for the teaching the Defendands sone his booke for a whole year" was non-suited because of the plaintiff's negligence in carrying out their bargain (p. 13). Counter suits in the Talbot County Court in 1671/2 between William Hemsley, the county clerk, and Ralph Blackhall, show that the former had employed Blackhall to teach his children and to make a copy of the laws. (*Arch. Md. liv*, 523). Arthur Emery petitioned the Talbot County Court at the June 20, 1671, session, declaring that he had had "Anne the Daugh^r of Christopher Walter at bord & Scooleing a considerable time", and requested that the administrator of Walter's estate be directed to pay him 600 pounds, which was ordered (*Arch. Md. liv*, 497). Arthur Emory figures in another similar suit (*Arch. Md. liv*, 494). Of interest also is the suit of William Sturdivant against William Younge in the Talbot court for 400 pounds of tobacco for "learning" Younge to "play on the Violin", which the court ordered paid (*Arch. Md. liv*, 591).

Funeral customs and burial expenses are not infrequently mentioned. A coffin seems to have cost not more than 150 or 200 pounds of tobacco. Litigation presenting amusing features followed the funeral of Mrs. Joseph Lenton of Charles County who survived for a short time her husband and two children, when the entire family was suddenly wiped out of existence. James Lee, who appears here and elsewhere in the Maryland records in a not especially attractive light, took upon himself to give the widow Lenton an elaborate funeral, which included expenditures of 1677 lbs. of tobacco for 2 lbs. of gunpowder, 2 bottles of Drams, 3 barrels of beer and the hire of a boat and hands to fetch the beer, and "36 yards of black Ribining at 12 lbs. per yard". The administrator of the Lenton estate, Mr. Francis Pope, refused payment, and Lee sued him at the March 1, 1661/2 session, of the Charles County Court. Pope asked a jury trial and his "instructions" to the jury, indicate that he, or whoever drew them up, had a keen sense of humor. These instructions, which are in the form of interrogatories by Pope, are worth examining at length in their quaint phraseology in the original court record. He enquires whether it is not ridiculous to shoot at the funeral of an ordinary planter's wife as would be done at that of a commander in war or of a young soldier; whether it is a Christian act for neighbors to show their sorrow by