

covering a quarter of a century. The county records themselves attest that he was a most capable clerk. His will reveals the fact that before coming to Maryland he was a London mercer.

The Somerset County records for the colonial period, the condition of which has been described in detail by Louis Dow Scisco in the *Maryland Historical Magazine* for December, 1927, are among the most complete and best preserved of the county records of Maryland. It is to be regretted that it is not possible to print here the court proceedings of this county down to the end of the third quarter of the seventeenth century, as has been done in the case of Kent and Talbot counties, but they are too voluminous to permit of this. At the end of the old Somerset liber (B. No. 1) of court proceedings here reproduced is to be found a list of the livestock marks recorded from 1665 to 1722. It has been thought advisable to print this list in full, although the entries included in it extend down more than half a century beyond the date covered by the court proceedings as here printed. Beauchamp began this record of livestock marks and later clerks continued to enter them in the same record book until 1722.

It is only once stated in the court records where the court met. Before Somerset County was erected in August, 1666, we find recorded that the lower Eastern Shore court met on December 11, 1665, at the house of Thomas Poole, at Manokin. No later mention than this has been found for the period covered by this printed record, either before or after the establishment of Somerset County, as to where court sessions were held. On January 17, 1666/7, the court ordered "That A Tract of Land in th^e most Convenient place for the whole Countie to be taken up for th^e Counties use & a house to be builded thereupon". The record does not disclose whether this court order was promptly carried out or not. At this January 1666/7 session, the division of Somerset into five hundreds with the bounds of each was also ordered. These hundreds were Pocomoke, Annemessex, Manokin, Great and Little Manny, and Wicomico (pp. 652-653). Torrence, in his *Old Somerset* (pp. 502-510), discusses in a scholarly way the various places where the Somerset Court met during the seventeenth century. In the period covered by this record, 1665-1668, it is said to have usually met at "Poole's Hope" on the south side of the Manokin, the plantation of Thomas Poole. About 1670 there was a "court house" on the south side of the Manokin, probably at the town established at Deep Point. The Somerset records also show the establishment, September 16, 1668, of a town at Deep Point, to be laid out on a tract of land owned by Randall Revell on Revells Neck (pp. 721-723). This was doubtless where the court house was built.

No county levies giving the number of taxables, by which the growth of population may be determined, are to be found in this printed Somerset record. In May, 1662, the number of tithables in what afterwards became Somerset County was stated to be about fifty, indicating a population of some 175 persons (*Arch. Md.*, iii, 452). The increase in population after this, as shown by the land grants and live stock marks, was very rapid.

THE EDITOR.