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Security of her Majesties person and Government and of the Succession to the Crown of Great Britain in the Protestant line unto Thomas Randolph and William Mayo, Gent. who also Subscribe the Test take the oath of a Justice of the peace and of a Justice in Chancery and then administer the said oaths unto John Woodson, Tarlton Fleming, and Allin Howard, Gent. who also Subscribe the Test."¹

The above being a direct quotation even to the exclusion of commas, the addition of which might possibly simplify one's understanding of the entire matter, the sum and substance of which is intended to state that the Honorable Gents were duly sworn as Justices of the Peace.

A difference in spelling of proper names frequently occurs and it must be assumed that the spelling was accomplished, to large degree, by sound. All proper names will be recorded as they appear in the records.

With the Justices duly robed and wigged, further oaths were administered.

Henry Wood became the first Clerk, Daniel Stoner first Sheriff and Thomas Walker first under Sheriff. William Mayo was appointed first Surveyor of the county. John Woodson was appointed to take tithes below Beaverdam Creek, Allin Howard above Beaverdam Creek, William Mayo in that part of St. James Parish south side of James River and Tarlton Fleming in King William Parish. King William Parish was set up entirely separate and distinct from Henrico Parish out of which it was taken. A full explanation of this Parish appears under the subject of the Huguenots.

The first Will proved in Goochland was that of George Cox, by his widow, Martha Cox.²

At the first court William Mayo, Surveyor, and John Woodson and Tarlton Fleming, Justices, were appointed to meet the Surveyor and Justices of Henrico County to run the dividing line between the Counties of Henrico and Goochland "at such time as they shall agree on between this and the 10th day of June, next."³

There is an interesting anecdote concerning the Woodson family and since John Woodson played an important role in the early history of Goochland this story is passed on. It is said that some time before the formation of Goochland, and during an Indian attack upon some white settlers by the name of Woodson, one little boy ran away and hid in what was commonly called a "tater hole."

Properly explained this means an excavation in the earth for preserving potatoes. When the Indians departed, leaving death and destruction in their wake, the little boy crawled out of the tater hole and made his way to a home in the vicinity where he was cared for and reared to manhood. There was a great deal of excitement about the boy's escape and it was said in later years that he held a high office in the county. Everyone thought that John Woodson was assuredly the little boy who hid from the Indians and substantiated, this would have made a fine tale. However, it later developed that there were two little boys, brothers and near the same age. While one hid in the tater hole during the Indian raid the other crawled under a tub and later escaped unscathed. He, too, was taken in by a family and reared to manhood. Whatever their proper names may have been, they were thereafter known as Tater Hole Woodson and Tub Woodson. Unfortunately, it cannot be determined whether John Woodson was Tater Hole or Tub, or just a plain, uninteresting Justice and Gent.

At the June Court, 1728, Thomas Prossor was appointed Deputy Attorney of the Court. He is referred to later as the King's Attorney and Attorney for the King.⁴

The first Deed of record in Goochland County was executed by Jacob Michaux and John Michaux, of the County of Henrico, Parish of St. James, and conveyed to Daniel Croom 300 acres of land on the south side of James River, it being the land bequeathed by Abraham Michaux, deceased, to his sons Jacob and John. The deed is dated April 21, 1727, and was recorded May 21, 1728.⁵

In May, 1729, the whipping post was many times used as a form of punishment, and tobacco was valued at "two pounds per pound."

Tarlton Fleming and William Cabell were appointed the first Coroners of the County in October, 1729. They were sworn at the December Court of the same year.⁶

The following February, a bridge was ordered built over Beaverdam Creek below Bollings Mill to be kept in repair by tithables. The order mentions John Rigut's Plantation across Wild Boar Swamp.

The first marriage recorded in Marriage Bond Book I was that of Giles Allegre and Judith Cox, June 27, 1730. Security and witnesses: John James Flournoy and Henry Wood.⁷

William Cabell was sworn as an additional Justice in July, 1730.