said Province and you the said Thomas Smith Son John Thompson or John Bigger Philip Hopkins James Saunders James Round John Pollard Thomas Slaby John Hawkins James Kotch and Thomas Greenfield Justices of our said Court Willing and by these Presents Constituting that our said Chief Justice and Justices aft or any four or more of them of which you the said Richard Hill Thomas Smithson John Thompson or John Bigger or Philip Hopkins allways shall be our Justices Sufficient to hold a Court as well to Inquire by the oathes of good and Lawfull men of our said Province by whom the truth of the Matter may be better Known of all and all Manner of Murthers Treasons Misprision of Treason Felloneys witchcrafts Incchantments Sorceries Magick Arts Trespasses Forestallings Regratings Ecclesias and Engrossings what soever and all things touching and relating unto us and the Conservation of our Peace and the Peace of our said Province as allso the holding of Common pleas and the hearing and determining of all and all manner of Pleas Civill Criminall and Mixt within our said Province and therefore wee Command you and every of you that you Dilligently Intend the Keeping of our Peace Ordinances and Statutes aft and all and Singuler other the Premisses and that at Certain days and places allready by the Laws of our said Province Ordained and Appointed or which you or any four or more of you shall Appoint you make Inquiry of and upon the Premisses and hear and Determine perform and fullfill all and Singular the same doing therein what to Justice appertaineth According to the Laws and Customs of our Kingdom of England and our said Province saving unto us the Amerciaments and other things thereof to us belonging and wee Command the Severall and Respective Sheriffs of our said Province by virtue of these Presents that on the Certain days and at the places assigned or which you or any four or more of you shall Appoint or make Known unto them they Cause to come before you or such four or more of you as aft such and soe many good and Lawfull Men of their Baywicks by whom the truth of the Premisses may be the better Known and Inquired of and that

they Together with all and Singular the Civill Officers and Ministers Civill and Military within our said Province and all other our Good and Liege peoples of ye same upon the Faith and Allegiance which they Owe and towards they stand bound to us that in all things touching the Office of Chief Justice and Justices respectively Written to our trusty and well Beloved Nathaniell Blackiston Esqr our Lieut Gen and Governor in Chief in and over our Province and Dominion of Maryland this third day of April in the Eleventh Year of our Reigne Annoq: Domini 1699

N Blakiston

On the Back of which Commission was thus Indorsed

William the third by the Grace of God of England Scotland France and Ireland King Defender of the Faith &c to James Saunders James Round John Pollard Thomas Slaby John Hawkins James Kotch and Thomas Greenfield Esqrs Greeting Wee doe hereby Authorize and Impower you or any one of you to administer the Oathes appointed by Act of Parliament instead of the Oathes of Allegiance and Supremacy as allso the oathe of Justice of the Peace all Court unto Richard Hill Thomas Smithson John Thompson John Bigger & Philip Hopkins Esqrs or any one of them and you the said Richard Hill Thomas Smithson John Thompson or John Bigger Philip Hopkins or any one of you having taken the said oathes are Impowered to administer the aft oathes Appointed by Act of Parliament as allso the Oath of Justice of the said Court to all and every the Justices of the said Court within mentioned and that you the Severall Justices within Named are hereby required to Subscribe the Bill as allso the Association after you and every of you have taken the oathes above Mentioned and for soe doing this shall be your Sufficient Authority Witness our trusty and well Beloved Nathaniell Blackiston Esqr our Lieut Gen and Governor in Chief in and over our Province and Dominion of Maryland this third day of April in the Eleventh year of our Reigne Annoq: Domini 1699

N Blakiston