

COUNTY FORMATION

The "Act for dividing the County of Isle of Wight into two distinct Counties and for other purposes therein mentioned" does not appear in Hening (1748, Vols. 5 and 6) either by title or in full text; but reference below, will show the full text of this Act, a copy of which was recently secured by the Library from the Public Record Office in London, for use in this connection. It will be noted that Southampton County, although authorized by an Act passed in 1748-came into actual existence in 1749 the former date being the general and more popular interpretation of the actual existence of this county. (Virginia Counties, page 87)

An Act for dividing the County of Isle of Wight into two distinct Counties and for other purposes therein mentioned.

(Passed April 30, 1749)

Whereas divers Inconveniences attend the outer inhabitants of Isle of Wight County by reason of their great Distance from the Court-house and other places appointed for public Meetings Be it therefore enacted by the Lieutenant Governor Council and Burgesses of this present General Assembly An it is hereby enacted by the Authority of the same That from and immediately after the twentieth day of May next the said County of Isle of Wight be divided into two distinct Counties by the River Black Water and that part of the said County which lies to the east of the said River be erected into one distinct County and retain the Name of Isle of Wight and all that other part thereof to the West of the said River be one other distinct County and called by the Name of the County of Southampton And for the due Administration of Justice Be it further Enacted by the authority aforesaid that after the said Twentieth day of May a Court for the said County of Southampton be constantly hold by the Justices thereof on the second Thursday in every Month in such Manner as by the Laws of this Colony is provided and shall be by their Commissions directed PROVIDED always that nothing herein shall be construed to restrain the Sherif of the said County of Isle of Wight as now stands intire and undivided to make Distress for any Levies Fees or other Dues which shall be due from the Inhabitants of the said County after the said twentieth day of May next in such Manner and not otherwise as by Law he might have done if this Act had never been made any Law Custom or Usage to the Contrary thereof in any wise notwithstanding And whereas there is now in the Hands of Etheldred Taylor of