

who had seen the records in the possession of Dunn. I immediately sent for him and he came to the city yesterday and testified to that fact, whereupon I caused process to be issued by which Dunn's house could be searched, and I am glad to inform you that the records were found and are now in my possession. I shall be in Annapolis in a day or two when they will be restored to their proper place of deposit.

I have the honor to be  
your obed<sup>t</sup>. servant  
Geo K Richardson.

State Department Annapolis Mo 4th May 1847

Sir: I duly received your obliging letter of the 27th April informing me that the State tax for the current year had been duly levied by the Commissioners of St Mary's County; and that collectors for the 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> districts had been appointed and qualified, but that the collector for the remaining two districts, although appointed had not submitted his bond for approval, and that the same cannot be approved before the first day of May. You further enquire of me, in the name of the Commission, whether, in my opinion, under the Act of Assembly vesting the appointment in the Governor after that day they have the power to approve the bond. I have given this subject the most mature reflection and examination, and I do not entertain a doubt but that the authorities of your County possessfully the power not only to approve the bond in question, after the first of May, but that in case the bond is rejected, they, also, have authority to appoint another collector and to approve his bond, and so on until a properly qualified officer is obtained; unless, in the mean time, the power is superseded by an Executive appointment made under the provisions of the Act of 1844.

Although perfectly clear on this subject, I have, nevertheless, deemed it my duty to obtain the opinion of eminent Counsel, and I have this morning received from the Attorney General of the United States his written opinion fully confirming the views above expressed.

The Commissioners of St. Mary's County will, therefore, proceed to approve or reject the bond of the collector appointed for the districts referred to, and, in the event of its rejection, appoint another collector.

By way of super abundant caution, it will be better to cause the bond to be given on stamped paper, although in my opinion and that of Mr. Johnson it is not absolutely necessary.

I am very respectfully  
your obedient servant  
Philip F. Thomas

G. J. Halding Esq  
City Commissioners of }  
St Mary's County }