

ment and it doubtless had considerable influence in Maryland. He was a member of the ratifying convention which met at Annapolis in 1788. On October 30, 1789, he was appointed Chancellor of Maryland and served in that capacity until his death on January 16, 1806. As one of Maryland's leading lawyers, he was fully capable of the task of editing the laws.

He interpreted the act authorizing the publication of the *Laws* to include:

"... all subsisting public acts of assembly, the operation of which was not already past; the proceedings of the last convention, so far as in any manner they respect the declaration of rights, and the constitution and form of government; the subsisting resolves of convention, and the articles of confederation."⁶

All laws which were made for only a limited period of time and whose term had expired by 1785 were given only by title unless they contained some unusual or important clause. Also all acts respecting individuals, small groups of men, schools or parishes were given only by title unless they were notable for some legal precedent. The resulting volume was considerably smaller in number of pages than Bacon's *Laws* and does not have that same typographical beauty which distinguished the former as one of the finest products of the printing press in Colonial America.⁷

A LAST WORD ON THE GREEN FAMILY

Frederick Green was Postmaster at Annapolis for several years in the decade after the Revolution. The records of the Post Office under the Continental Congress are not complete enough to show the date of his appointment and the length of his service but his name is found in several of the undated lists of postmasters of the states during that period.⁸ Samuel Green succeeded him as postmaster and held that position until his death on January 6, 1811, although he was a staunch Federalist in the service of a Republican government.

Both brothers were highly esteemed at the time of their deaths; both retained their positions though opposed to the political party in power.

⁶ Preface to *Laws of Maryland, made since M,DCC,LXIII*.

⁷ Difficult as it is to point out the features of a printed page which make it inferior to another page printed in the same type, yet certain imperfect features of Hanson's *Laws* can be detected when compared with the earlier volume. The printer crowded too much material into the title page, thus preventing that sufficient contrast which gives the simple and dignified appearance to the first page of Bacon's *Laws*. He decreased the number of pages of text by lengthening the type page. As is so often the case when economy is preferred to good typography, this had an unfortunate effect on the proportions of the page. The paper, which was probably made in America, is much poorer than that used by Jonas Green in Bacon's *Laws*.

⁸ Papers of the Continental Congress, Vol. 61. Manuscript division, Library of Congress.