

SESSION OF NOVEMBER–DECEMBER, 1766

The May, 1766, session of the Assembly which came to an end on the 29th, had been prorogued to meet again on October 27, 1766, but doubtless because there were not "a sufficient number of delegates present to compose a Lower House", to use the conventional expression, which seems to have meant at least half the membership, it was prorogued day by day by Governor Sharpe until November 1, when it finally met (*Arch. Md.* XIV; 164-165). This was the fourth and last meeting of the Assembly which had been elected in 1764.

There was a small attendance of members of the Upper House at this session, which normally had a membership of twelve. In addition to the President, Benjamin Tasker, there were present only Benedict Calvert, Daniel Dulany, Richard Lee, John Ridout, and Henry Hooper. There were still vacancies in the Council and Upper House caused by the deaths in 1764 of Phillip Key and Stephen Bordley, which had not yet been filled; and another caused by the death of Robert Jenkins Henry who had died just before the beginning of the session. Charles Hammond and Charles Goldsborough seem to have been too ill to attend, and Edward Lloyd, at odds with John Morton Jordan, the recently appointed special revenue officer of the Proprietary, absented himself as he had done at the previous session. Letters from Sharpe about this date continually urged upon the Lord Proprietary the importance of filling the vacancies, and suggested prominent persons sympathetic with the Proprietary interest from whom selections for the three vacancies might be made. Those suggested by him from whom a choice might be made were Robert Goldsborough, Walter Dulany, John Beale Bordley, Henry Hollyday, George Plater, and Charles Graham (*Arch. Md.* XIV, 333-335). Later, Bordley in 1768, and Walter Dulany, in 1767, were appointed. Before that session opened the portrait of Frederick, Lord Baltimore, and his coat of arms, which he had recently sent to be hung in the Council Chamber, where the Upper House also sat, had been received and acknowledged by Sharpe (*Arch. Md.* XIV, 273, 309).

There were a few changes in the membership of the Lower House, special elections having been held to fill three vacancies caused by death. A few days before the November–December, 1765, session came to an end, Col. Henry Travers, a member from Dorchester County, died at Annapolis of smallpox and the Lower House on December 18, ordered an election to be held to fill his place (*Arch. Md.* LIX, 251). Col. John Henry succeeded him, sitting for the first time in the November–December, 1766, Assembly (pp. 119, 191). Thomas Key of St. Mary's County was chosen at a special election held in June, 1766, to succeed his brother Edmund Key who had died May 11th. Thomas Key took his seat at the November–December, 1766, session (pp. 93, 143; *Md. Gaz.* May 8 and June 26, 1766). The committee on elections reported that the writs of election of both Henry and Key were returned although the endorsements were not duly entered (p. 203), but both elections were accepted. A writ of election was ordered November 29, 1766, to fill the vacancy caused by the death of James Heath of Baltimore County (p. 196). Heath