

THE LOWER HOUSE

When the Lower House convened on November 17, 1769, this, as has been stated, was the second session of an Assembly whose members of the Lower House of Delegates, as they were called, had been elected in Nov.–Dec., 1767. The election results appear in the *Maryland Gazette* for that year and months and also in the January, 1768, issues. The first session of the newly elected house was held in May and June, 1768. The more prominent members of the Lower House are discussed in the introduction to the last volume of this series (*Arch. Md.* LXI, xlii–xliii).

When the second session opened on November 17, 1769, most of the same Delegates appeared. Six deaths, however, had occurred since the first session had ended on June 22, 1768. Those who had died were Henry Baker, of Cecil County, Capt. Joseph Chapline, of Frederick County, Francis Waring and William Murdock, of Prince George's County, and Philemon Lecompte, of Dorchester County (p. 40; *Maryland Gazette*, July 28, 1768; Jan. 12, Feb. 23, Oct. 19, Dec. 7, 1769).

Robert Adair, who was a Delegate for Baltimore County, died in Baltimore Town on October 22, 1768 (*Maryland Gazette*, Oct. 27, 1768). Thomas Jennings, another Delegate from Frederick County, having accepted the office of Attorney General since the last session of the Assembly, his seat in the Lower House was declared vacated (p. 40). About a week later, on November 25, 1769, the seat of John Hanson, Jr., of Charles County, was also declared vacant. It appears that he had accepted the position of Deputy Surveyor of Frederick County (p. 50).

The Speaker of the Lower House, Robert Lloyd, was ordered by the Lower House to issue his warrant to the Secretary of the province requiring him to make out new writs of election directed to the Sheriffs of those counties where vacancies had occurred due to death or acceptance of an office (pp. 40, 50).

A number of the Delegates, who had been elected during Nov.–Dec. 1767, made their appearance for the first time at the second session of the General Assembly which convened, at Annapolis, on November 17, 1769. Among them was Edward Tilghman, of Queen Anne's County, who appeared on the opening day (pp. 5, 39).

Some of the Delegates did not put in their appearance until December. Edward Noel, of Dorchester County, took the required oaths of office on December 13 (pp. 17, 72). On the following day Andrew Heugh and Thomas Contee, Delegates from Frederick and Prince George's Counties, respectively, put in their appearance (pp. 18, 77). Mordecai Jacobs, another Delegate from Prince George's County, was qualified on December 15 (pp. 20, 80), while Thomas Sprigg Wooton, of Frederick County, took his seat in the Lower House the next day (pp. 23, 84).

Annapolis was entitled to two Delegates to represent the town in the Lower House, while each of the counties could have four Delegates, making fifty-eight Delegates in all. Twenty-nine was probably a quorum. Curiously enough, although the General Assembly met in Annapolis, neither of this town's Delegates was present when the session began on November 17, 1769. John Hall