

regulations under which a market could be conducted in Frederick Town (pp. 438-441). It appears that money for finishing the market house and town hall in Frederick Town was raised by a lottery (*Maryland Gazette*, Dec. 8, 1768; Apr. 6, June 1, 1769). The other local act concerning Frederick County referred to the poor of that county (pp. 443-445). The original law entitled "An Act for the Relief of the Poor within the several Counties therein mentioned" was passed in 1768 (*Arch. Md.* LXI, xiii, xxxix, l, xcv-xcvi, 486-495).

Only one local act expired during the years 1769-1770 and that had the caption "An Act for amending and repairing the Public Roads in Baltimore County" (p. 212). This law was to be in force until October 31, 1770 (*Arch. Md.* LXI, xxxv-xxxvi, 259-262). As this act was not reenacted during the session of the Assembly which met from September 25 to November 2, 1770, it expired on the specified date. This act was, however, revived and continued by the General Assembly in 1771 and again in 1773 (*Hanson's Laws of Maryland*, 1771, Chap. XIV; June-July, 1773, Chap. III).

#### PRIVATE ACTS, 1769-1770

Such acts were passed for the benefit of one or more persons. At the session of the General Assembly held from November 17 to December 20, 1769, four private acts were passed. One of them authorized the payment of eight hundred dollars to Governor Eden, which, the act read, his Excellency was requested by the Assembly to accept as "an Instance of their Regard & respect for him." Probably because it was not wished to establish a precedent by this donation, this law was listed as a private act. Otherwise the payment of money to a governor would seem more in the nature of a public or general act. The title of the law allowing Eden eight hundred dollars was misleading as it gave no idea of its purpose. It was called "An Act for applying a Sum of Money in Bills of Credit to the use therein mentioned" (p. 124).

One of the other private acts passed in 1769 dealt with the naturalization of a man who was "a Foreigner of the Protestant or reformed Religion" (p. 120); another related to the financial "relief" of a woman for the loss of a slave who committed suicide while in jail on the charge of burglary (p. 127); the other act sought to remedy a defect in the title to land (pp. 124-125).

During the two sessions of the Assembly which met in 1770 ten private acts were passed. Two of these laws gave John Clayton and Isaac Perkins a kind of patent on machines, good for ten years, which each had made for threshing wheat (pp. 315-316, 334-335). The other eight acts related to land, two of them dealing with the sale of land for the payment of debts (pp. 308-312, 339-341), while the other six sought to remedy defects in the title to land (pp. 322-324, 331-332, 341-342, 433-437, 441-442, 451-453).

#### ACTS FOR THE RELIEF OF PRISONERS FOR DEBT, 1769-1770

Having some of the characteristics of both general and private acts these laws are considered separately. In previous volumes of the *Archives* will be found not only petitions of the prisoners themselves, but also a discussion of