

largely Virginian in character, the Maryland Assembly was stern against Governor Horatio Sharpe and refused to vote funds or raise troops. Edward Braddock, the British general deputed to drive back the French, operated within Western Maryland, but even his rout and death in 1755 failed to spur Maryland.

### **Prelude to Revolution**

The accession in 1751 of Frederick Calvert, a "gay young blade", to the title of Lord Baltimore meant less interference from the Proprietor, therefore Marylanders transferred their complaints against the Proprietary to the British Government. Conflict between French and English only sharpened the point. Debts to English merchants, lack of a proper colonial currency, and taxes on imports led Maryland, this time in common with other colonies, to take drastic action. Maryland takes credit for first refusing to pay taxes under the Stamp Act; actual repudiation took place in Frederick County on November 23, 1765. The Townshend Acts were repealed in 1770 but a strong feeling of rebellion remained. Support of Boston was vigorous after that port was closed; and the Boston Tea Party of December 16, 1773 had its Maryland counterpart when a tea ship, the *Peggy Stewart*, was burned in Annapolis harbor on October 19, 1774.

Maryland played leading roles in both the First and Second Continental Congresses and in the signing of the Declaration of Independence. Revolutionary action on a National scale had been foreshadowed by the Maryland "Association of Freemen."

### **The Revolutionary War**

From the first skirmish in Boston to the surrender at Yorktown, Maryland soldiers saw service. Despite alarms, only once did the British—by water at Vienna—invade Maryland soil. Pulaski's Legion was organized in Baltimore, Baron de Kalb and Lafayette spent some time in Maryland, and here it was that in 1783 the Continental Congress met. George Washington passed into civilian life in the Senate Chamber of the State House at Annapolis on December 23, 1783. The Treaty of Paris ending the war, was ratified in Annapolis three weeks later on January 14, 1784.

### **Second British Conflict**

On April 28, 1788 Maryland became the seventh state to ratify a constitution which, through her leadership in the