

DANIEL OF ST. THOMAS JENIFER - 1728 - 1790

Term Paper - History of Maryland
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"Retreat"

The home of Daniel of St. Thomas Jenifer, member of the Continental Congress and signer of the Constitution. A rambling clapboard house has notable tall chimneys. This house is located near Port Tobacco, Maryland in Charles County, Maryland. Jenifer was president of the Maryland Council of Safety 1775 - 1776. First president of Maryland Senate 1777 - 1781. Jenifer also rendered valuable services in raising supplies for Continental Army.

this is wrong one! This D. # T Jen.
of Dan of St. Thos Jenifer is nephew
Besides, this Jenifer's mother is Mary
Hanson, daughter of Robert Hanson
not Samuel, so that John
Hanson would be his
distantly removed
cousin - in-law!

LOT Sept 5 '74

John Hanson

John Hanson, the first president of Continental Congress Assembled, was the uncle of Daniel of St. Thomas Jenifer. Jenifer's Mother and John Hanson were children of Samuel and Elizabeth Hanson. "Mulberry Grove", John Hanson's home in Charles County is only about five miles from "Retreat", Jenifer's home in Charles County. It can be surmised that John Hanson and George Washington were influential in the life of Daniel of St. Thomas Jenifer.

Daniel of St. Thomas Jenifer was one of the few men and conspicuous persons who was closely associated with the proprietary government; then rejected the proprietary, turned against England and played a leading role in the Revolutionary movement in Maryland.

Daniel of St. Thomas Jenifer was born in Charles County, Maryland in 1723. His father, Dr. Daniel Jenifer, was of English ancestry. His mother was the eldest daughter of Samuel and Elizabeth Hanson and sister of John Hanson,¹ first President of Continental Congress Assembled. She was a direct descendant of a Swedish Colonial Hanson, who died with Gustavus Adolphus on the battlefield of Lutzen,² and granddaughter of Andrew and Annika Hanson who settled on Kent Island in the Chesapeake in 1653, from Sweden.³ Daniel of St. Thomas had one brother, Daniel Jenifer, and one sister, Elizabeth Hanson Jenifer.⁴ There are two versions as to the origin of the unusual name: Daniel of St. Thomas, (1) that a progenitor coming from England early in the seventeenth century stopped at the Island of St. Thomas in the West Indies before continuing on to this country and that upon arriving in Maryland, he adopted the "of St. Thomas" style to distinguish himself from another Daniel Jenifer who had come to Maryland from Virginia, and (2) that an ancestor came from the Isle of St. Thomas, off the Cornish coast, and that "of St. Thomas" had already been part of his name before he came to America. To this day the name has been perpetuated among "Collateral" descendants in Maryland.

1. Old Kent - The Eastern Shore of Maryland

Intro. - Hanson, George A., p. 167

Des Forges, John P., 1876

2. Dictionary of American Biography, Vol. 10 - pp. 42-43

3. Fewell, Henry Fletcher, Tercentenary History of Maryland, Vol. IV,

L.J. Clarke pub. 1925

4. Ibid 153

Daniel of St. Thomas Jenifer lived his early life at "Retreat" near Fort Tobacco and received a liberal education. He never married but lived a jolly bachelorhood; often visited Washington at Mt. Vernon and was a favorite, as he was very humorous and popular. He was reputed to be a wit but not one who made enemies.

As a young man, Jenifer was justice of the peace of his home county and later of the western circuit of the Province. In 1760 he served on the commission appointed to settle the boundary dispute with Pennsylvania and Delaware. This finally resulted in the Mason-Dixon boundary settlement.

He became a member of the Provincial Court in 1766, and from 1773 until the opening of the Revolutionary War, he had a seat on the Governor's Council.

Jenifer held office as Proprietor's Agent and Receiver General in charge of all Proprietary revenues under the last two proprietors; Frederick Calvert, Sixth and last Lord Baltimore (son of Charles) and Henry Harford, son of Frederick but not a fully recognized Lord Baltimore. The chief concern of the Lords Baltimore in their Maryland grant was revenue. This they derived from quit rents on patented land on proprietary manors, from "alienation" fines paid on the transfers of land from one private patentee to another, from tonnage and export duties on tobacco, and from sundry fines, fees and amercements.⁵

From these sources the Proprietors enjoyed a net income estimated at £ 12500 sterling yearly for the final decade before the Revolution.⁶ In addition to this substantial sum, the people of Maryland were subjected to an annual tax of about £ 12000 to support a group of officials appointed by the Proprietors to administer their land and revenue systems, and another £ 8000 to support the American Clergy.

⁵ Crowl, Philip - Maryland During and after the Revolution
Baltimore, Johns Hopkins Press 1943 p. 19

⁶ Ibid

Thus an annual revenue of £ 32500 was in control of the proprietary element, going to about 120 men for administration civil and ecclesiastical, and for the satisfaction of the privileges of the Lord Proprietor under the Royal Charter. To administer and protect this lucrative source of income the Proprietors engaged the assistance of a group of men, one of whom was Daniel of St. Thomas Jenifer, within the Province who, because of their close connection with the Proprietary, became known as the "Court Party". This consisted of the Governor, appointed by the Proprietor, the Governor's council, also appointed by the Proprietor, to serve both as an executive body, assisting the Governor, and as the upper house of the Provincial Assembly. This was the group of which Jenifer was a member from 1773. A mass of petty officials appointed by the Proprietor or his Governor and finally the Anglican Clergy whose living was mostly bestowed by proprietary favor.⁸ In 1766 Jenifer was made a member of the Provincial Court; in 1773 he was a member of the Governor's Council.

Organized opposition to such measures as the Townshend duties and Intolerable Acts grew and came forward from a group which by 1774 became rebels against the Crown and the Proprietary. A representative from every county went to Annapolis June 22, 1774 after the passage of the Boston Port Act. From this point the gap between the colonies and their mother country widened.

Subsequently more conventions were assembled to oppose Proprietary measures. It must have been at this time Daniel of St. Thomas Jenifer, though at first inclined to be conciliatory and desirous of peace with England, took a stand for independence along with his friend George Washington and uncle John Hanson, and in 1775 Jenifer was chosen President of the Maryland Council of Safety. On May 5, 1775 Robert Eden,

not correct

8. Crowl, Philip op.cit., p.19

Proprietary Governor, explained to Lord Dartmouth that he could not prevent delegates going to the newly created Congress but was assured that they would bring about reconciliation.

He stressed that he had not slept twice out of the city since his return because disorder "was too active". By August he was further disturbed by the actions of two members of his Council; Daniel of St. Thomas Jenifer, an intimate friend, had gone over to the patriots and accepted office; Beale Bordley too, but he took an inactive part.⁹

This Council of Safety was appointed to govern the Province and was later to frame the state constitution of Maryland. This body of men was representative of the governing aristocracy and men of wealth and prominence from the different parts of Maryland; ¹⁰

- (1) Matthew Tilghman, member of a politically powerful, socially prominent and very wealthy Eastern Shore family presided over the Council of Safety from 1774 - 1775.

Other members were:

- (2) Edward Lloyd, kin of Tilghman and also from the Eastern Shore,
- (3) Robert Goldsborough, another member from that side of the Chesapeake - Dorchester County,
- (4) Charles Carroll of Carrollton, probably the wealthiest man of the State, from Ann Arundel and Frederick Counties,
- (5) Charles Carroll, the Barrister, remotely related to Charles Carroll of Carrollton, and son-in-law of Matthew Tilghman from Annapolis and the Eastern Shore,
- (6) William Paca from Harford and later Queen Anne's County,
- (7) Thomas Johnson from Western Maryland, first Governor of Maryland,
- (8) Samuel Chase a leading Maryland lawyer from Annapolis, under whose influence Maryland voted a break with the Mother Country, 1776, and
- (9) Daniel of St. Thomas Jenifer

9. British Public Record Colonial Office, Transcript Library of Congress from Maryland Historical Magazine.

10. Crowl, Philip op.cit., pp 22 - 23.

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Janifer, like the other members of the Council of Safety was a man of means. He was a Charles County planter and owned a large acreage in Charles County near Port Tobacco, now called "Retreat". After 1775 Janifer was the president of the Council of Safety which exercised authority in the Province until the new government was formed. This body carried on all legislative matters as well as matters pertaining to Maryland's contribution to the actual Revolutionary War.

Thomas Stone writing to Daniel of St. Thomas Janifer, April 24, 1776 from Continental Congress:

"If the Commissions do not arrive shortly and conduct themselves with great candor and uprightness to effect a Reconciliation, a Separation will undoubtedly take place.

"You know my heart wishes for peace upon terms of Security and Justice to America. But War, anything is preferable to Surrender of our Rights."

In Annapolis the representatives of the people of Maryland had set up a Revolutionary government. The Constitution had called for a meeting of the General Assembly on February 10, 1777 - and Thomas Johnson was chosen Governor of Maryland over Samuel Chase. In this year under our State government, Janifer became president of the Senate. He recognized the weakness of the State Constitution of 1776 and expresses his concern in a letter which later proved so true. He wrote the following letter to his fellow senators:

"..... I find objections that appear to me insuperable as to the new form of government.

"In attempting to excel there have been so many gradations and Exclusions that there will not be men enough found of sufficient abilities to turn the machine with that velocity which the present exigencies (sic) of our affairs require. Besides the Senate does not appear to me to be a Child of the people at Large, and therefore will not be supported by them longer than there subsists the most perfect Union between the different Legislative branches. How long that may be, you, the know men-kind full as well as I do, may easily determine..... The two

"houses are composed of 89 members, 8 of whom have it in
in their power to counteract Sl. Will they submit?" 11

This inherent weakness was to be confirmed the years after 1776. The most serious divergence came between the years 1779 and 1780 over the confiscation of Tory and British property issue. In December of 1779, a bill to confiscate British property passed the House of Delegates unanimously,¹² only to be rejected by the Senate four days later with the statement that the severity of the weather demanded an immediate adjournment so as to allow the Eastern Shore members to go home before the bay froze over and that the bill needed more lengthy deliberations.¹³ No doubt, while some were urging confiscation as just retribution there were also those others who desired confiscation for private and personal reasons. In any event there were members of the Senate who questioned the justice and expediency of confiscating the British property and among them were Matthew Tilghman, Charles Carroll of Carrollton and Daniel of St. Thomas Jenifer and these men refused to concur in its passage. Not until the next session (October 1780) after much wrangling between the two houses, did the opposition of the Senate win out. The State was having great difficulty in maintaining credit and it was felt that this sale of confiscated property would ease this matter. Nevertheless, even with this and every other financial device which could be employed, bills of credit issued by the State depreciated. By an act passed in November, 1781, the office of "Intendant of the Revenue" or State Treasurer, was created and Daniel of St. Thomas Jenifer was the first incumbent and served until 1785, when the office expired.

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11. Daniel of St. Thomas Jenifer to C. Carroll of Carrollton, Jos. Nicholson, Jr., Turbt. Wright, Brice J.B. Worthington and Samuel Wilson, Esquires, Feb. 2, 1777 - Md. Archives 1682-1785 Hall of Records, Annapolis, Md.
 12. V. A P. November Session, 1779, House of Delegates Dec. 25, 1779.
 13. Ibid, Senate Dec. 20, 1779

Legislation over the British property was actually very complicated but "all property belonging to British citizens within the State, debts only excepted..... be seized and confiscated to the use of the State."¹⁴

Particular estates were later designated to be set aside for the redemption of soldiers' certificates,¹⁵ for sinking a new emission of paper money issued in 1781, known as "red money",¹⁶ for redeeming pledges of free land to soldiers and officers of the Maryland Line,¹⁷ and for the general use of the State in meeting the expenses of war and civil government.¹⁸ At first three commissioners were appointed to occupy and supervise the sale of all British lands. William Pace, Uriah Forrest and Clement Hollyday were appointed. Forrest and Pace were subsequently replaced by Nathaniel Ramsey and Gabriel Duvall. In 1784 the disposition of this property was transferred to the Intendant of the Revenue, Daniel of St. Thomas Jenifer, under whose guidance the bulk of it was sold.

"An Act to appoint an intendant of the revenue. Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland That Daniel of St. Thomas Jenifer (who shall reside at Annapolis) be appointed intendant of the collection and expenditure of the public assessment and revenue, and all monies and tobacco belonging to this State, fore one year, to commence at the end of this session of Assembly. Annapolis"

(Printed by Frederick Freen 1784) ¹⁹

14. Crowl, Philip op.cit., p. 45

15. Ibid

16. Ibid

17. Ibid

18. Ibid

19. Wheeler, Jos. T., The Maryland Press, p. 153 item 383

The confusion in the handling of money must have been infinite. An Act of the Assembly of 1781 gave ratings to the following coins as being in general circulation in the State:

Johannes & 6
Half Johannes & 3
Moidores & 2 5s
English Guinea & 1 15s
French Guinea & 1 14s 6d
Doubletons & 5 12s
Spanish pistales 1 & 8s
Arabian Chequins 13s 9d

Other gold coins (German excepted) by the pennyweight 6s 8d;

English milled crowns 8s 4d. Other English milled
silver at same rate

French silver crowns 8s 4d

Spanish milled pieces of eight 7s 8d

Other good coined Spanish silver per ounce 8s 6d, and

Any other gold coins of the same fineness

per ounce 6s 13s 4d 20^s

The following figures compiled from S.R. 1781 - 85 and S.R. 1784 represent the average acreage distribution by counties for the years 1781 - 85. 2 10

County	No of Acres	No of Purchasers	Average Size of Purchase Acres
St. Mary's	22,333	149	150
Charles	14,982	116	129
Baltimore	60,469	324	186
Harford	47,729	271	176
Frederick	9,265	41	226
Somerset	1,766	17	104
Kent	3,319	28	118
Cecil	71,247	309	230

21. Crowl, Philip, op. cit., p. 57

When Daniel of St. Thomas Jenifer was President of the Senate the Maryland Legislature expressed the hope that their retiring Governor, Thomas Johnson, would not remain inactive from public service for long. This expression of appreciation was actually formulated by a special committee of six: Senators Matthew Filchman, Charles Carroll of Carrollton, William Paen and Delegates John Hall, John Henry and Peregrine Letherbury. This notable document was signed by Daniel of St. Thomas Jenifer, President of the Senate, Josias Bull, Speaker of the House and forwarded to former Governor Thomas Johnson. This was an appeal to Johnson to return to public service as well as an expression of appreciation.

In 1776 Jenifer was elected to the Continental Congress, of which he was a member until 1782. He served on many active and important committees, including the Admiralty Board and the committee to consider the cession of western land.²² He was always in favor of a permanent union of the States. He wanted the Congress to have the power to tax and was against issuing a flood of paper money.

When the office of Intendant was discontinued, Jenifer was appointed special agent by the Governor and Council to continue to carry on his previous duties. Most of the land transactions were mainly completed by 1788; some dragged on until 1799.²³ (Nine years after Jenifer's death.

22. Dictionary of American Biography, Vol. 10 pp. 42 - 43

23. Crowl, Philip, op. cit., p. 46

In 1779 Thomas Johnson had served three one year terms so was not eligible for reelection. Edward Lloyd and Thomas Sim Lee were nominated. Thomas Sim Lee was the choice of the Assembly and was Governor until 1782 and in that year became ineligible for reelection. This time Jenifer ran against William Pace and Pace was elected.

January 19, 1785 Daniel of St. Thomas Jenifer was asked by Legislature to attend a conference between Maryland and Virginia to discuss the navigation and jurisdiction of the Potomac and Pocomoke Rivers and that part on the Chesapeake Bay lying within the limits of Virginia. It seems that earlier Virginia had ceded to Maryland entire jurisdiction over the Potomac reserving for herself only the right of free navigation; but the arrangement had not proved very satisfactory to Virginia. James Madison put a measure through the Virginia Assembly calling for the discussion of the navigation problem. Madison, Edmund Randolph, George Mason and Alexander Henderson were named to represent the Commonwealth. The Maryland delegation asked to consider the question were Thomas Johnson, Samuel Chase, Thomas Stone and Daniel of St. Thomas Jenifer. All accepted the invitation to meet at Mt. Vernon except Thomas Johnson from Maryland and Madison and Randolph from Virginia. The group negotiated a compact providing that the Potomac and Pocomoke and the waters of the Chesapeake within the limits of Virginia should be common highway and no toll or duty should ever be imposed by Virginia upon any vessel sailing through the Capes of the Chesapeake to or from the State of Maryland.²⁴ Maryland Legislature ratified this Mt. Vernon Compact²⁴ and recommended another meeting of the Maryland and Virginia Commissioners to discuss interstate trade relations and also include

24. Bancroft - History of Formation of the Constitution p. 113

Pennsylvania and Delaware. This type of acting and thinking between States was an important step in the rise of nationalism. (Woodrow Wilson's statement concerning the Mt. Vernon Compact was very true though misleading as the subject of the Mt. Vernon Compact was not navigation across the Alleghany Mountains but the waters before mentioned.) He said this movement was influential in producing a "continental outlook of affairs, which outlook led the way to the adoption of the Constitution. Again Jenifer displayed his hope and channeled his industry toward "a permanent union of the States". This nationalistic spirit is indeed that which most promoted the creation of our unified governmental structure.

Growing from the Mt. Vernon meeting a need for a uniform system in commercial regulation grew evident. Another gathering was formed to consider these problems, but because of a lack of official participation of several states this convention did not pass upon the general situation but did recommend that a convention be called in Philadelphia. This group was to meet the second Monday in May 1787.²⁵

Woodrow Wilson gives due credit to those men when he says "..... Everybody knows it was a conference between delegates from Maryland and Virginia (i.e. the Mt. Vernon Convention)..... a conference held at his suggestion and at his house - that led to the convening of that larger conference at Annapolis, which called for the appointment of the body that met at Philadelphia and framed the Constitution....."²⁶ So, the first gathering at Mt. Vernon with the continental plan and hope for agreement between states on which Daniel of St. Thomas Jenifer worked was an important gathering -- not most important for what is accomplished (though that cannot be overlooked -- it is still in part

25. Andrew, Nath. Page, History of Maryland p. 111

26. Wilson, Woodrow "The Making of the Nation" Atlantic Monthly July 1897 p. 7

held as jurisdiction) but it was the seed. Now that the Convention was definitely and firmly set, the Maryland Assembly had the problem of appointing delegates to go to Philadelphia. There was an unwillingness of a number of the eligible candidates to go. John Henry, George Gale, William Paca, Thomas Johnson and Samuel Chase, all declined to be considered in the nominations.²⁷ William Smallwood was the Governor of Maryland at this time, succeeding Paca - 1785.

A special Assembly was called April 10, 1787 and Charles Carroll of Carrollton, Robert Hanson Harrison, Thomas Sin Lee, James McHenry and Thomas Stone were chosen to represent Maryland in Philadelphia.²⁸ Of these five men, four resigned; Robert Hanson Harrison because of "ill state of health"; Thomas H. Stone felt he could not leave his family and affairs in Charles County for so long (though he was serving in Annapolis at this time in Senate and House of Delegates); Charles Carroll found he would be unable to be in Philadelphia for reasons unnamed, as did Thomas Sin Lee. In a letter to Thomas Jefferson, John B. Copping attributed the indifference of Carroll, Johnson and the rest, and their unwillingness to leave the State to fear that Chase would utilize their absence to renew agitation for paper money.²⁹

27. Crowl, Philip, op.cit. p.109

28. Ibid 109

29. Ibid p. 110

Another reason why many of the leading statesmen were none too eager to serve was because this body had no organic authority and no real power of efficient action, as its power which was given by several states was very undefined. I wonder if the importance of the outcome of this meeting was evident. Obviously it was to Daniel of St. Thomas Jenifer, Daniel Carroll, John Francis Mercer and Luther Martin, for these men found it possible to leave their estates and affairs from May twenty-fifth through the summer until September 17, 1787 to attend to the important matters in Philadelphia.

Luther Martin - was the son of a poor New Jersey farmer who after graduating from Princeton College in 1776 had come to Queen Anne's County to teach schools. He had taken up law and had built up a highly successful practice. At the time of the Convention he was Attorney General of Maryland. He had never held an elective office in Maryland as his temperament and birth were not suited as a member of the "Maryland Ruling Class" - yet Martin of all the delegates from Maryland, played the most important role in Philadelphia.

John Francis Mercer - Twenty-eight year old Virginian had married Sophia Sprigg from Anne Arundel County in 1780. He had no previous political office.

James McHenry was born in Ireland and had studied Medicine. McHenry had served in Maryland Senate. His family had become a prosperous merchant family in Baltimore since coming to this country.

Daniel Carroll a distant kinsman of Charles Carroll of Carrollton, was a wealthy and influential man who owned a sizable estate in Montgomery County. He had been a member of Senate and had served a delegate several times.

Daniel of St. Thomas Jenifer and Daniel Carroll were the only two of these representatives who were of the aristocracy which had governed colony and state.

Rhode Island failed to send any delegates to this Convention. The delegates from the twelve other states convened in Philadelphia, May 1787. General George Washington presided over the sessions. Jenifer played a minor part in the actual framing of the new constitution. The most important stand he took was for a three years' term for members of the House of Representatives, for he felt that too frequent elections would cause popular indifference to civic duties and would make men of prominence unwilling to assume office. He favored the completed Constitution and made it known when Luther Martin declared that "he would be hanged if the people of

Maryland would approve the document. Jenifer advised him to stay in Philadelphia "lest he hang in his home state".³⁰ Luther Martin took a leading part and was instrumental in forcing the compromise which created a bicameral legislative body with equal representation of the states in the senate without regard to the population. In the absence of his colleagues, Martin cast the vote for Maryland against proportional representation and created a deadlock. Jenifer entered the hall shortly afterward and an effort was made to bring the question up again but presiding officer George Washington refused. The larger states consented to the compromise. Martin made numerous contributions to the Constitution but as time went on he found himself in such fundamental disagreement that he, with John Francis Mercer, left the Philadelphia Convention, to go back to Maryland to fight its ratification.³¹ During the early days of the meetings when Jenifer and Martin were the only representatives from Maryland present, they voted against each other so much that Martin complained "had Mr. Jenifer voted with him, things would have taken a different turn".³² McHenry, Carroll and Jenifer stayed to the end of the meeting to attach their signatures to the instrument along with thirty-six others.

On September 17, 1787 they forwarded their work to Congress and recommended that it be submitted to a convention of delegates in each state and be adopted as the frame of government for the United States. September 28th Congress did so.

The text was first seen in Maryland in the Maryland Journal of September 25 and for seven months political attention centered on the question of ratification.³³

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30. Dictionary of American Biography. Scribner 1933 - Vol. 10, pp 42-43.
 31. Delaplaine, Edward S., Life of Thomas Johnson, 1927
 32. Crowl, Philip op.cit. p.116
 33. Ibid 117

It was on the 23rd day of November 1787 that the Maryland House of Delegates commenced its consideration of the Federal Constitution. On that day Delegate Johnson presented to Speaker Thomas G. Bays a copy of a communication from the Governor of Virginia enclosing resolutions of the Virginia Assembly on that subject.³⁴

After this message was read to the members of the House, it was moved that all the Maryland deputies to the Federal Convention: Dr. Jenifer, Dr. McHenry and Daniel Carroll, the three who had signed their names to the instrument, as well as the recalcitrants: Attorney General Martin and Attorney Mercer should appear in the House the 29th day of the month to report the proceedings of the said Convention. The motion was carried 28 to 22. On the 29th the members of the Legislature heard the reports of the deputies to the Philadelphia Convention. The men were accustomed to public life but did not any possess a great ability of the oratorical or of debate. Daniel of St. Thomas Jenifer was at this time sixty-four years of age and was a capitalist and man of affairs. Dr. McHenry was only 34 years old and Daniel Carroll a farmer, was scarcely over thirty-one. In comparison to these men Luther Martin was in contrast powerfully

34. Notes and Proceedings of the House of Delegates, November 1787, p. 9

ratification and cast his vote in favor, so South Carolina became the eighth state to ratify. New Hampshire was the ninth and Virginia the tenth to join the ranks toward a "more perfect union".

The outgrowth of the convention in Philadelphia of which Daniel of St. Thomas Jenifer was a delegate was the instrument creating the more perfect form of government. A democracy is the most difficult form of government to run, for under it there is needed the effort of every citizen. There must be discussion, there must be moderation but most important, there must be united effort. It requires intellect, skill and the exertion of all the citizens but its rewards of freedom, justice and progress are immeasurable. What makes our Constitution so great a work by those delegates who worked and discussed the hot summer of 1787? It is great because of the wisdom of the structure of the government it creates. It is highly idealistic but is workable. In its workability the spirit and purpose have not been lost or diluted.

Was the birth of this Constitution in Philadelphia? No, this document was born of history -- the history of men through the ages who tried to combine order with liberty and freedom. St. Augustine and the builders of the Roman Empire can be called to mind, as can King John's signing of the Magna Carta at Runnymede and those pioneering spirits who changed this country with its hardships and unsure future in the beginning. Let us never undervalue the work of these

endowed as a forceful orator, a lawyer, graduate of Princeton and Attorney General of Maryland. Luther Martin in his report opposed the Convention "in every state of its progression". In a colorful and masterful speech Martin predicted only the worst from the Constitution implying that it was a selfish plan for the empowering of certain States. But Luther Martin was unable to stem the tide of Nationalism. The influential Federalists in the Maryland Legislature knew George Washington too well to even think that he would dream of fighting for special powers for Virginia. After much study, long discussion and hot debate, on Saturday, April 26, 1788 the question was before the Maryland Legislature "Does this Convention assent to and ratify the proposed Constitution?" The oratorical talents of both the Anti-Federalists and the Federalists had been greatly displayed and it was now time to act. The question was decided in favor of the affirmative by a vote of 63 to 11.³⁵ Thus Maryland became the seventh state to ratify the Constitution and by a great majority! There was great rejoicing at the proof of Maryland's feeling toward Federalism - shown by the vote of nearly 6 - 1. And so Maryland was the seventh state to ratify the Constitution.

Washington had always believed that Maryland's favorable action would encourage ratification by other states and South Carolina soon followed. One of South Carolina's members of the Convention who had opposed the Federal plan changed his views because of Maryland's

35. Daleplane, Edward S. op.cit. p.23

fifty-five men who, in Philadelphia's Independence Hall formulated the Constitution. They are not our heroes alone. The many nations who have borrowed from our Constitution Turkey, Latin American Nations, India, Australia and nations of South Africa pay homage to the Constitutional Convention. The chief principles of the Constitution have influenced men wherever the individual's identity and freedom in order are valued.

At the time of ratification, Jenifer was 64 years old.

Men in all generations have felt that they have witnessed great progress. Surely, Daniel of St. Thomas Jenifer's lifetime of contributions to the birth of a nation and state, did witness a terrific change - a change from the British colony to a free and independent nation.

A family letter from the United States Constitution Sesqui-centennial Commission written by David M. Nettson, historian states: "There is no doubt that Jenifer died in Annapolis. The Annapolis and Baltimore papers had independent items to that effect. He died early in the morning of November 16, 1790. His brother and nephew, the two Daniel Jenifers, were his executors and they advertised his landed property for sale. The notices began in the Maryland Journal and Baltimore Advertiser on April 13, 1791 and continued through June 10th. The auction was to be held June 15th. The notice is dated Port Tobacco, March 17, 1791. The "Stepney" plantation is offered as his property and place of residence in Ann Arundel County, about four miles from Annapolis on the road to Upper Marlboro, within one mile of South River and binding a creek. It is said to contain upwards of 750 acres. Another tract, called Paddington or Paddington Harbour, of 220 acres, a mile distant is offered for sale.

The place of Daniel of St. Thomas' burial is actually unknown. There are those of his descendants who feel he may have been buried at "Charleston" on the Wicomico or at "Stepney" his home in Ann Arundel. Ethel Abbey Hayden, authoress of "Port Tobacco - Lost Town" ⁱⁿ an article in the publication of the Maryland Historical Society Magazine, suggests another explanation. "Port Tobacco was first built on the west side of the creek and later drifted to the east side because of the behavior of the water and erosion of the hills. Old Christ Church had a graveyard on the west side which is now inundated. The tops of the stones were visible fifty years ago. An excavation of these old graves might well repay the student of Charles County history. Here may be the grave of Daniel of St. Thomas Jenifer for which historians have made a long fruitless search. This assumption must await the uncovering of the old stones. 28

(1945)
 38. Maryland Historical Society Magazine, Vol. 40, p 263.

Daniel of St. Thomas
Jennifer
CH

Records of the Federal Convention of 1787
edited by May Farrand,
Volume III, pp. 558, 586, 589

p. 558 The following men were
elected delegates to the Federal Constitutional
Convention, 1787, but declined to serve.

Charles Carroll of Carrollton
Gabriel Duval
Robert Hanson Harrison
Thomas Sim Lee
Thomas Stone.

p. 558 and p. 586 - The following served -

James McHenry
Daniel of St. Thomas Jennifer
Daniel Carroll

(p. 589) John Francis Mercer (opposed to
(p. 589) Luther Martin (opposed to the
Constitution)

format:

delegate, Federal Convention that formed
the Constitution, 1787