

There were in this 1764-1765 period a number of well trained lawyers serving in both houses of the Assembly. Eight of these had received their legal training in London in the Inns of Court. Three of them were in the Upper House. There were four in the Lower House, in addition to the Clerk of the house, who had also received his legal training in London. The Upper House members who were Templars, were Stephen Bordley (1709-1764) of Annapolis, an Inner Templar, a Councillor and the Attorney-General; Daniel Dulany the Younger (1722-1797) of Annapolis, of Clare College, Cambridge, a Middle Templar, a Councillor, and the recognized intellectual leader of the American bar of his time; Richard Lee (1705-1787) of "Blenheim," Charles County, a Middle Templar, a Councillor, and later for several years President of the Council. In the Lower House were Robert Goldsborough (1740-1798) of Cambridge, a Middle Templar and later a distinguished Maryland judge; John Hammond (d. 1784) of Anne Arundel, a Middle Templar; James Hollyday (1727-1788) of "Readburn" Queen Anne's County, a Middle Templar, who in 1765 refused a seat in the Council, preferring to remain in the Lower House; Edmund Key (d. 1766) of St. Mary's County, a Middle Templar and an Inner Templar, and the successor of Stephen Bordley as Attorney-General. The Clerk of the Lower House, Michael Macnemara, had received his legal training at Gray's Inn, London, to which he was admitted in 1723. It may be added that John Brice of Annapolis, appointed one of the commissioners of the Loan Office in 1765, was also a Middle Templar.

The Lower House at once proceeded to organize in the orthodox manner, although organization was not actually completed until it met again in November after a month's recess. Ringgold and Hanson appeared before the Governor and the Upper House, and reported that there were a sufficient number of delegates present to form a Lower House. Lee and Ridout from the Upper House accompanied by Dr. Upton Scott, recently appointed clerk of the Upper House to succeed John Ross, proceeded to the lower chamber and swore in the delegates in the usual manner. Hammond and Ridout in the name of the Governor then summoned the members to appear in the upper chamber where the Governor directed them to return and choose a Speaker. The Lower House, after selecting Robert Lloyd of Queen Anne's County Speaker, sent John Goldsborough and James Hollyday to inform the Governor of their choice, who indicated his approval. Hammond and Lee were then sent by the Upper House to require the attendance of the delegates to present the Speaker. After Lloyd had been formally presented, the Governor gave his official approval of the choice. Michael Macnemara was appointed Clerk (p. 4). Robert Saunders was appointed Serjeant-at-arms and Cornelius Howard Door-keeper and took the required oaths of office (p. 17). John Duckett and Turbutt Wright were appointed clerks to the several committees of the Lower House. (p. 22).

In this brief opening address Sharpe said: "Having Reason to think it would be very agreeable to you to be Convened as soon as the unlucky Cause [smallpox] which made me decline meeting You last Spring was removed I have called you together before the day to which the Assembly stood prorogued, hoping that my doing so will Convince You of my desire to gratify You and afford You an Opportunity to promoting the true Interest of your Country".