

in England to have the law as passed by the Assembly annulled by the Proprietary, and when he refused, by the Crown.

An act relating to the marriage of Charles Carroll of Carrollton arouses one's interest. A bill was introduced and passed at the 1768 Assembly under which Mary Darnall, then a girl of nineteen years, in consideration of a settlement upon her of £300 a year by her prospective husband, waived all her dower rights. Nowhere in the bill is the name of her husband-to-be disclosed. It would appear that the wedding was actually held up for a few days until the act was finally passed. The reason why Daniel Dulany voted against the bill on legal grounds are of interest and are explained in the Introduction.

Baltimore Town is brought to our attention by the passage of two acts affecting it. Petitions were circulated throughout Baltimore County, which then included what is now Harford and parts of Carroll counties, seeking to have the county seat removed from the dying town of Joppa to the rapidly growing Baltimore Town. These petitions, asking for the removal of the county seat from Joppa to Baltimore, bore the names of 2271 signers. Many of these were Germans living in Baltimore Town and the sections to the west of the town. Petitions were circulated in both English and German. Petitions opposing removal were also presented bearing the names of 901 signers. Most of these, as one would expect, were residents of what is now Harford County. Hearings were held before the Assembly and an act passed, authorizing the removal of the county seat, and the erection of the court house and prison in Baltimore Town. Better accommodations for suitors, witnesses, and jurymen in Baltimore with its many inns and the increasing population of this part of the county, and the inadequate and delapidated court house at Joppa, were among the reasons urged for removal. Also showing the increasing importance of Baltimore as a commercial center and port, was the passage in 1768 of an act providing for the inspection and grading of flour and various other commodities dealt in there. It was to the rapidly developing export trade in flour that Baltimore largely owed its prosperity at this date.

Disputed elections of delegates from Baltimore County resulted in the four members returned as elected from this county, being on two separate occasions unseated. In the first instance the Lower House declared their seats vacated because liquor had been so freely used among the voters on election day as to be construed a form of election bribery. In the second instance, in 1769, it appears that the sheriff had not properly conducted the election. The details of these irregular elections as revealed at hearings before the house are amusing.

The output of legislation for this three year period was sixty-four acts passed; these were general laws, local laws and private laws. In addition one act was passed by both houses which received the veto of Governor Sharpe,