

but, as just stated, it did not meet again. Following various prorogations in 1767, on April 2, June 13, August 22, September 11, October 10, and November 3, the Governor, after finally fixing upon December 7th as the date of meeting, decided to dissolve it, and on November 3, 1767, ordered that writs, dated December 13, 1767, be issued for new elections for delegates to the Lower House (*Arch. Md.* XXXII, 188, 208, 213, 214, 218). The election results, as elections leisurely progressed in the various counties during December, 1767, and January, 1768, appeared in issues of the *Maryland Gazette* for these months.

Governor Sharpe, on December 4, 1767, called the newly elected Assembly to meet on the first Monday in February, but on January 4th prorogued the proposed meeting until the third Monday (16th) of May (*Arch. Md.* XXXII, 218, 219, 220); and again until May 24th, when the session began with thirty-four of the fifty-eight members present (pp. 325, 326). Seventeen months had elapsed since the last Assembly had adjourned on December 6, 1765, but there does not seem to have been any public demand for an earlier meeting. Provincial politics following the repeal of the Stamp Act had been quiescent during this relatively long period.

The members of the Upper House who were present at various times during this 1768 session were, in addition to Governor Sharpe, Benjamin Tasker the President, Benedict Calvert, Daniel Dulany, Charles Hammond, Samuel Chamberlaine and John Ridout, and the two new members, Walter Dulany and John Beale Bordley. Dulany, who filled the vacancy caused by the death of Charles Goldsborough (*Arch. Md.* XIV, 411), had been sworn in as a member of the Council and Upper House on February 11, 1767, and Bordley, who took the place of Colonel Henry Hooper, who had recently died (*Arch. Md.* XIV, 350), had not been sworn in until May 24th, the opening day of this session (*Arch. Md.* XIV, 350; XXXII, 179, 232).

Neither Edward Lloyd nor Richard Lee was present at any time during this session. Since the November–December, 1766, session two members of the Upper House had died: Colonel Henry Hooper of Dorchester, who died April 20, 1767, and Charles Goldsborough, also of Dorchester, who died July 16, 1767. Although at this period the membership of the Council and the Upper House was fixed at twelve, there were at the opening of this session two other vacancies not yet filled, which were increased to three by the death of Benjamin Tasker just before the close of the session. At only one meeting were there as many as eight members present (p. 301). Sharpe, writing to Hamersley, the Proprietary's Secretary for Maryland affairs in England, on June 22nd, the closing day of this session, urged that the Proprietary make new appointments to fill these three vacancies, and quite graphically described how old age, illness, and dissatisfaction had cut down the number in attendance (*Arch. Md.* XIV, 509). Benjamin Tasker, for forty-six years a member of the Upper House and for twenty-seven years its President, had died on June 19, a few days before the session closed, after an illness of only a fortnight. Tasker, wrote Sharpe, had "to the last given punctual Attendance; his mild Temper and Behavior to every Body made him much esteemed." Colonel Charles Hammond, he writes, "who is now the Senior