

his debts", etc. It appears that Philpott, the owner and developer of a tract of land in that section of Baltimore lying between Jones's Falls and Harford Run in South Baltimore, had died, with claims against his estate amounting to the large sum of £4093: 19: 8 Sterling and £1876: 15: 4, Maryland currency, and other open accounts against him; and that the apparent value of his personal estate was only about £1569. The act recites that her husband had given a written memorandum to an attorney to draw a will directing that certain lands be sold for the payment of his debts, but that the will was not executed; that it will be to the advantage of the heir at law that sufficient of these lands be now sold to pay the debts in full. The act gave the widow authority to sell lots by public vendue sufficient to pay the debts (pp. 461-463).

An act for the relief of Joseph Scott of Worcester County is of interest as showing that the Province was liable for the value of a slave who died after commitment to prison on a criminal charge. It is disclosed that Scott was the owner of a negro man slave who had been committed to the custody of the sheriff on suspicion of murder, and that while in prison he had died. The act authorized the justices of Worcester County to determine the value of the slave at the time of his arrest, and that the owner be reimbursed to that amount by the Treasurer of the Eastern Shore (pp. 439-440).

The usual leisurely routine for the ending of a session of the Assembly was upset by the defiant action of the Lower House in its sympathetic consideration of the letter of the Massachusetts House, which made it necessary for Sharpe, acting under orders from the Crown, to dissolve it immediately. Before doing so, however, he added his fiat to the various bills awaiting his signature, although as his address shows, with some misgiving on his part whether he should delay prorogement long enough to do this (p. 419). In a closing speech he prorogued the Assembly to meet again on the first Tuesday of October, 1768 (p. 420), although it did not actually come together again until November 17, 1769.

ECHOES OF THE STAMP ACT

Echoes of the Stamp Act were heard at both of the 1766 assemblies. At the close of the May, 1766, session, the Lower House had appointed a committee of three headed by Edward Tilghman to correspond during the recess of the Assembly with Charles Garth, Agent of Maryland in Great Britain in Stamp Act affairs (p. 63), and a resolution had been adopted, directing the Speaker to "acquaint Charles Garth, Esq., that this House unanimously approve his Conduct, communicated in his Letters of 26th of February and 5th of March last to Messrs. Tilghman, Murdock and Ringgold, laid before this House" (p. 64). These letters from Garth do not appear in the journal of the Lower House but have been reprinted in full in the *Maryland Historical Magazine* (Vol. VI, 1911, pp. 282-305). Earlier in this session of the Assembly a letter from James Otis of Massachusetts, addressed to Messrs. Tilghman, Murdock and Ringgold, who had been the representatives of Maryland at the Stamp Act Congress, asking that a further allowance be made to the clerk of the Congress, was read to the Lower House, but the house refused to make any further allowances than those that had already been granted (pp. 29-30).