

executive than any other Eastern Shoreman. It could very well be that my Eastern Shore predecessors were a bit shrewder than I and knew when to take their leave.

Perhaps the most famous and certainly one of the most outspoken former Eastern Shore governors was William Paca of Queen Anne's County, the third chief executive of Maryland who served from 1782 to 1785. Prior to the Revolutionary War, nowhere in the colonies could one find a more severe critic of the English than Mr. Paca and, later, after becoming Governor, he was on hand to witness and participate in some of the greatest events in Maryland's history including Washington resigning his commission as Commander-in-Chief of the Continental Armies and the ratification of the Treaty of Paris ending the Revolutionary War. A signer of the Declaration of Independence, Governor Paca, toward the close of his career, was instrumental in establishing Washington College in Chestertown. An early writer said of Governor Paca:

"Mr. Paca was a man of remarkably graceful address, fine appearance and polished manners; he had mixed long in the best society and had improved his social powers to a very high degree of refinement. In the office of Governor, his superiority in these respects was very strikingly displayed and the courtesies of the executive mansion have never been more elegantly sustained than during his tenure of office."

Governor Paca's immediate successor, William Smallwood, of Kent County, served from 1785 to 1788. He was one of the most famous military figures of his day and not the least bit reluctant to inform others of this fact. It was Washington for the nation and Smallwood for the State as citizens began looking for civil leaders from among the ranks of the military. As a colonel in the Revolution, Smallwood was designated by General Washington to cover the General's retreat during the Battle of Long Island and, during this engagement, Smallwood won lasting fame for himself and the Maryland Line.

The first Governor to encounter a problem that has continued to haunt us to this day was John Henry, of Dorchester County, who was elected by the Legislature in 1797 for one year. Maryland was divided and the Eastern and Western shores were struggling for control of State affairs and the right to name Maryland's representatives in the United States Senate. A compromise was agreed upon with each area given one Senator. John Henry was elected and became Maryland's first United States Senator. So ably did he serve that when the country