

ington, carried the news of victory at Yorktown to the Continental Congress in Philadelphia. These are just a few of the names that come to mind. Shortly thereafter, on November 5, 1781, John Hanson, of Frederick, was elected "President of the United States in Congress Assembled." It was for this distinguished Marylander we named the fine expressway linking the present capital of the United States with Annapolis, our country's first peacetime capital.

As I have previously indicated, following Yorktown the United States was not legally free until a definitive treaty between the rebelling colonies and Great Britain could be negotiated and ratified. Representatives from the United States and England were working in Paris to accomplish this end. There, on September 3, 1783, after long negotiations, a definitive treaty was drawn up. John Adams, Benjamin Franklin, and John Jay, representing the United States, and David Hartley, representing Great Britain, signed the treaty for their respective countries. But these men were only empowered to negotiate. In order for the treaty to become effective, it had to be officially ratified by both countries within six months. Copies of the treaty were rushed to England and to the United States for appropriate action. But in those distant days, communications between Europe and the United States were no speedier than the fastest sailing ship, which required about a month to make the voyage.

In the meantime, the Continental Congress was faced with the multiple problems of setting up a new government. Even the job of finding a suitable place in which to meet presented difficulties. At that time, there were not very many cities that could offer adequate accommodations for the national government. The Congress, meeting in Princeton, New Jersey, had adjourned, completely discontented with that town's facilities. They did not know where next to meet. In Annapolis, where this State House had recently been completed, the local citizens, with an eye to the future, persuaded the Maryland General Assembly to invite the Congress to meet here. Even then, Annapolis was a government center and the progressive-minded people of this community were hopeful that their city might become the permanent capital of the nation. Maryland's offer to the Continental Congress was generous and hospitable. For instance, they offered our fine new State House as an outright gift. The Assembly also offered the Governor's Mansion as a residence for the President of the Congress. As well thirteen homes and other buildings for the use of the delegates from that states. To all this, they were prepared to add the gift of 30,000 pounds to finance their offer.