

About this time the long-standing dispute about the northern boundary was finally settled, and two eminent English mathematicians, Charles Mason and Jeremiah Dixon, were engaged by the Proprietaries of Maryland and Pennsylvania to run the line between the provinces and mark it by suitable monuments. They began their labors in 1763 and continued them for four years. The line thus run is the famous Mason and Dixon's line, dividing the Northern from the Southern States.

Frederick, the sixth and last Baron of Baltimore, died in 1771, leaving the province to his illegitimate son, Henry Harford, a minor.

The opposition to the tea tax, first laid in 1776, was fierce and revolutionary, and associations were formed throughout the province to prevent the introduction of tea. A firm of Annapolis merchants, having in defiance of the public sentiment, imported a consignment of that commodity, popular indignation rose so high that a town meeting was held, and the owner of the brig that had brought it, to avert further mischief, publicly burned his vessel, the *Peggy Stewart*, with its obnoxious cargo, in the sight of a large concourse of spectators, on October 19, 1774.

The associations were felt to embody the spirit of resistance to the tyrannous pretensions of England, but something more organic was seen to be necessary if the struggle was to be carried on with any hope of success, and delegates were chosen to a Convention which met in Annapolis. This Convention became the organ of the sovereign power of the people of Maryland. It appointed the deputies to the Continental Congress and instructed them from time to time. As it was too large to remain in permanent session, a portion of its members were appointed a Council of Safety, which sat in Annapolis, and was the executive hand of the Convention, assisted by committees of correspondence in the counties.

The Council of Safety soon began military preparations, organizing the militia and providing them with military equipments. After the battle of Lexington, the Convention prepared a declaration and pledge, declaring the purpose of the people to resist force by force, and warlike preparations went on rapidly. The militia was drilled and kept in readiness; minute-men were enlisted, and Maryland's contingent, known as the Maryland Line, placed at the disposition of Congress.

Governor Eden, finding that his presence in the colony was worse than useless, left the province on June 24, 1776, and the last phantom of proprietary government vanished.