

11-14, 1786; though Maryland did not participate, delegates from the five other states expressed concern about certain phases of the Federal constitution then in the process of formulation. On April 28, 1788, Maryland ratified the constitution, the seventh state to endorse a document which, through her leadership in the revision of the Articles of Confederation, she had done much to formulate.

Because of the exhaustion of the tobacco lands, however, serious agricultural problems remained. Slavery was becoming a burden, and currency problems vexed Maryland's economic life. In the formation of a new nation, Maryland did its part by sacrificing its territory and advancing money for public buildings to form the District of Columbia (1791). To offset some of the difficulties, Baltimore had grown until it was five times as great as Annapolis, the flourishing port of the "Golden Age." Early in the new century exports from Maryland ports reached the \$14,000,000 mark.

### **The Second British Conflict**

This shipping was, however, seriously hampered by British policy. Finally British interference with our vessels and crews brought on the War of 1812. Fighting began in Canada but was soon carried south by the British. From 1813 Maryland bore the brunt of the war. British troops routed our forces at Bladensburg and then proceeded to Washington, where they burned the public buildings. But defeats at North Point and Fort McHenry prevented the British from capturing Baltimore. During the bombardment of Fort McHenry, a Marylander, Francis Scott Key, was inspired to write the "Star Spangled Banner."

### **The War Between The States**

After 1815 the State went on more vigorous than ever. A national "pike" was completed to Ohio, two canals and a railroad were put in operation, and Baltimore increased enormously in population. By sharing the industrial and commercial interests of the North and West, Marylanders were put in a peculiar position when the secessionist movement began. On July 18, 1859, State troops helped in the suppression of the rebellion at Harper's Ferry ("John Brown's raid"), but two years later some Baltimoreans attacked the Sixth Massachusetts Regiment on its way through the city to relieve Washington. Enraged poetical comment on this event by a Marylander, James Ryder Randall, produced the State song, "Maryland, My Maryland."