

Anne Arundel County. In Worcester County, not a single vote was cast for presidential elector; whereas, the congressional race a month earlier drew 778 voters.

At the meeting of Maryland's electors on December 5, 1792 eight out of a possible 10 votes were cast for George Washington who was unanimously re-elected nationwide. Two members of the electoral college did not attend the meeting. Eight votes were also cast for Vice President John Adams, although there had been a fleeting and unsuccessful attempt to favor the candidacy of New York Governor George Clinton by having Maryland's additional votes go to Charles Carroll which the state's U.S. Senator quickly squelched.<sup>22</sup>

## 1796

In 1796 presidential politics became seriously contested with the announcement of President Washington that he would not seek re-election to a third term. The principal contestants were John Adams and Thomas Jefferson. Vice President Adams represented the primary hopes of the Federalists although some members of that group, led by Alexander Hamilton, sought to deny Adams the Presidency by manipulation of the electoral college system. The Hamilton scheme was to urge equal electoral votes for Adams and Thomas Pinckney of South Carolina in the northern states while working for Pinckney votes as the accompanying second ballots to Jefferson in the southern states. With such maneuvering Pinckney would emerge with the most electoral votes and become President ahead of the acknowledged front-runners. This political intrigue was warmly received by such Maryland Federalists as James McHenry and Charles Carroll.<sup>23</sup>

The contest in Maryland was spirited and widely debated in the press, in pamphlets and in campaign speeches.<sup>24</sup> The prospect for a divided electoral vote was heightened, and indeed probably guaranteed, by a change in the method of selecting presidential electors. Instead of each voter casting a ballot for every elector position regardless of residency, only those voters within a specified district could cast ballots for candidates who ran in their district only.<sup>25</sup> There were 10 electoral districts in 1796 which did not coincide with Maryland's eight Congressional districts.<sup>26</sup> The campaign in Maryland reflected not only national issues of the day but the local popularity of candidates for elector within each district.

A total of 13,198 persons voted statewide with the various Federalist elector candidates receiving 6,974 votes and the Democratic-Republicans or Jefferson candidates receiving 6,224 votes. However, electors favoring Jefferson carried 10 out of Maryland's 20 subdivisions and captured three out of the 10 electoral districts. These districts were comprised of Anne Arundel County and Baltimore City, Baltimore and Harford Counties and Cecil and Kent Counties. In the fourth district the Federalist elector won by only four votes (1,344 to 1,340) riding a huge margin in Allegany County (646 to 3) which offset his loss of Washington County.

At the meeting of electors on December 5, 1796 Jefferson picked up an unexpected electoral vote from the Federalist elector from Southern Maryland, who cast one vote each for Adams and Jefferson.<sup>27</sup> The electoral vote in Maryland mirrored the national electoral vote which produced the unusual result of the President being from one party, faction or