

may have contributed to his defeat as a candidate in the fifth presidential elector district. See Appendix A, 1796 Vote Map.

²⁴The best account of this important election is Malcolm L. Clark's "Federalism at High Tide: The Election of 1796 in Maryland," *M.H.M.*, June 1966, Vol. 61, pp. 210-230.

²⁵*Laws of Maryland*, 1795, Chapter 73.

²⁶This lack of congruity between electoral and congressional districts has caused erroneous assumptions and calculations in reporting on early presidential elections in Maryland. The number of electors exceeds by two the number of congressional districts because of the number of U.S. Senators.

²⁷The straddling elector was John R. Plater from St. Mary's County representing the First electoral district. The votes of the individual electors for the 1796 presidential election are disclosed in a letter from Charles Carroll to James McHenry dated December 15, 1796 which is set forth in Bernard C. Steiner, *The Life & Correspondence of James McHenry*, (Cleveland: The Burrows Brothers Company, 1907), p. 204.

²⁸Schlesinger, *History of Presidential Elections*, Vol. I, pp. 110-113; Risjord, *Chesapeake Politics, 1781-1800*, p. 558.

²⁹Renzulli, *The Federalist Years*, pp. 213-214.

³⁰The Alien and Sedition Acts were a series of restrictive and repressive laws passed by Congress designed to hinder administration opposition. They included measures to lengthen the period of naturalization from five to 14 years, to require registration of aliens, to authorize the President to order aliens deported who were "dangerous to the peace and safety of the United States." The most perilous law was one forbidding the publication of a "false, scandalous and malicious" writing against the President, Congress or the government under which about 15 persons were tried (all Democratic-Republicans and mostly journalists). Dumas Malone and Basil Rauch, *The Republic Comes of Age, 1789-1841*, (New York: Meredith Publishing Company, 1960), pp. 69-71.

³¹Manning J. Dauer, *The Adams Federalists*, (Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins Press, 1954), pp. 252-256; Renzulli, *The Federalist Years*, pp. 219-227.

³²Frank A. Cassell, "General Samuel Smith and the Election of 1800," *M.H.M.*, December, 1968, Vol. 63, pp. 341-359. Samuel Smith was a prominent Maryland politician of his era who represented Maryland in Congress for 40 years serving in the House of Representatives from 1793 to 1803 and 1815 to 1822 and in the U.S. Senate from 1803 to 1815 and 1822 to 1833. His power and influence was considerable in Maryland from the Jefferson through the Jackson administrations. A Revolutionary War hero, Smith was awarded the rank of Major General in the militia, commanding forces in Baltimore City and Maryland's Western Shore in 1795. His biography may be read in Frank A. Cassell's, *Merchant Congressman in the Young Republic: Samuel Smith of Maryland, 1752-1839*, (Madison, WI: University of Wisconsin Press, 1971). He was also Mayor of Baltimore City from 1835 to 1839.

³³Nicholson, from Queen Anne's County, was seriously ill during the balloting for President, but marked his ballots for Jefferson while in a sickbed in a committee room next to the floor of the House chamber.

³⁴The state's role in this critical presidential election and the various actions of Maryland's political leaders are described in Edward G. Roddy, "Maryland and the Presidential Election of 1800," *M.H.M.*, September 1961, Vol. 56, pp. 244-268.

³⁵*Laws of Maryland*, 1802, Chapters 70 and 103. The Third District was comprised of Anne Arundel County, Baltimore City and part of Montgomery County. The Fourth District contained