

Maryland.<sup>17</sup> By the time of the 1864 presidential election the loyalty oath was made a part of the state constitution by a vote which was favorable only because of lopsided returns from Maryland Union soldiers who were allowed to vote wherever their units were stationed. (See Table 1.) This loyalty requirement for voting was a significant burden for Marylanders who had approximately 20,000 brothers, sons and other relatives who were serving, or had served, in the Confederacy.<sup>18</sup> Many state leaders as well as voters simply avoided political participation rather than subject themselves to the potentially onerous burden of choosing between divided loyalties.

The end of the Civil War, with Lee's surrender at Appomattox on April 9, 1865 and Lincoln's assassination on April 4, 1865 by a Harford County native, John Wilkes Booth, brought a period of political reorganization to Maryland. As a loyal state, Maryland was not covered by the executive orders and Congressional acts which imposed conditions and restrictions on the seceding southern states.<sup>19</sup> Instead, Maryland engaged in its own "self-reconstruction."<sup>20</sup> Being relieved of the pressures generated from remaining in the union by the termination of hostilities, Maryland uncoiled to its more natural or historical political position. The Unionists began to quarrel among themselves with the two major factions being labeled "Conservative Unionists" and "Unconditional Unionists."<sup>21</sup> The Democrats, who had been generally silent during the Civil War, either by choice or force, quickly reorganized and set their sights on the 1866 elections for the state legislature. With the aid of loosened requirements for voting the Democrats regained control of the state legislature and in 1867 brought before the people of Maryland yet another proposed constitution which would, among other provisions, eliminate the dreaded "loyalty oath" and reapportion the legislature.<sup>22</sup> Capitalizing on repressed hostility to Federal interference in the internal affairs of the state, the Democrats were successful in passing the new state constitution and entered a generation of political domination in Maryland.

This volatile and changing era in Maryland politics is uniquely personified in one of its political leaders who touched all of the party elements—Thomas Swann. A descendant of the influential Byrd family in Virginia, he moved to Baltimore to stake out his own career. As a lobbyist and investor he was successful and was president of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad by 1848. His mercantile ties first led him into political affiliation with the Whigs but he became a member of the American Protestant Association and was the successful nominee of the American Know-Nothings for Mayor of Baltimore in the bloody election of 1857. As the Civil War dominated the political scene, Swann became a Unionist, climbed to the head of the Union Central Committee in 1864, and was the successful Unionist candidate for Governor in 1864. However, by the time of his inauguration in December 1865, the Civil War had ended and political realignment was again in the wind. Governor Swann aided the re-emerging Democratic party by appointing "liberal registrars" for the 1866 elections who loosely applied the loyalty requirements of the 1864 Constitution and related statutes. Swann aligned himself with the moderate reconstruction policies and actions of President Andrew Johnson, a pre-war Democrat, and eventually became identified with the state Democratic leadership, being elected as a Democratic Congressman in 1868. A complete biography of this interesting man, labeled a "political acrobat," would illustrate the 1852-1868 era as well as any single source.<sup>23</sup>