

deceiving administration win in 1864 which harbored the seeds of change in the event the hostilities ceased.

1868

The end of the Civil War brought rapid political change to Maryland. The Unionist coalition broke apart and the Democrats quickly recaptured the state's offices and power. Both houses of the General Assembly had been secured by 1867 and Oden Bowie, a long-standing Democrat from a well-established Maryland family, was elected Governor on November 5, 1867 with 74.28 percent of the votes.⁴⁰ Having failed at efforts to hold its wartime coalition the Unconditional Unionists surrendered their disguised neutrality and became more closely aligned with the national Republican party. At a state convention in April, 1867 the name "Republican Union" was officially adopted.⁴¹

The nomination of the Union war hero, General Ulysses S. Grant, by the Republican party at its 1868 National Convention coupled with a platform calling for equal suffrage and supporting the radical Congressional Reconstruction Acts virtually guaranteed a Democratic victory in Maryland. The Democratic nominee, Horatio Seymour, was the beneficiary of a rejuvenated party in Maryland.

On the election day the Democrats carried every county and Baltimore City in rolling up an impressive margin of better than two to one (62,365 to 30,442). As one of eight states to vote for Seymour, Maryland was only behind Louisiana and Kentucky in the severity of its rejection of Grant. Like a tightly wrapped coil, the Maryland voters, once unleashed, gave a strong repudiation to the Federal domination of Maryland during the war and the post-war policies of a Republican reconstruction Congress. For Maryland, a new era in presidential politics had begun.

1868 ELECTION SUMMARY

Candidate (Party)	Popular Vote		Electoral Vote	
	Md.	U.S.	Md.	U.S.
Ulysses S. Grant (R)	30,442	3,013,650		214
Horatio Seymour (D)	62,365	2,708,744	7	80

FOOTNOTES

¹This volatile era of Maryland's history is discussed and outlined in several excellent works including Jean H. Baker, *The Politics of Continuity: Maryland Political Parties From 1858 to 1870*, (Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 1973); William J. Evitts, *A Matter of Allegiances: Maryland 1850 to 1861*, (Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 1974); Richard B. Duncan, "The Era of the Civil War," in Walsh and Fox, eds., *Maryland, A History 1632-1974*, pp. 309-395.