

²The term "Know-Nothing" is attributable to the early days of the organization as a secret society with special passwords, signs, handshakes and other signals. When asked by outsiders about the association or its policies the members were to reply, "I know nothing." The development of the "Know-Nothings" from a small fraternal organization to the dominant political party in Maryland has been well documented in Jean H. Baker, *Ambivalent Americans: The Know-Nothing Party in Maryland*, (Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 1977); Mary St. Patrick McConville, *Political Nativism in the State of Maryland*, (Washington, DC: The Catholic University of America, 1928); Benjamin Tuska, *Know Nothingism in Baltimore, 1854-1860*, (New York: Broadway, 1925); Lawrence Frederick Schmeckebier, *History of the Know-Nothing Party in Maryland*, (Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins Press, 1899). The Know-Nothing or nativist movement was not confined to Maryland with its political tide leading in 1855 to the capture of nine Governorships, 70 seats in Congress and control of the lower House in 12 state legislatures. The national perspective may be gleaned from Carlton Beals, *Brass Knuckle Crusade: The Great Know-Nothing Conspiracy, 1820-1888*, (New York: Hastings House, 1970); Ray Allen Billington, *The Protestant Crusade, 1800-1860*, (New York: Van Nostrand Reinhold Company, 1971); W. Darrell Overdyke, *The Know-Nothing Party in the South*, (Baton Rouge, LA: Louisiana State University Press, 1950). Various studies also exist examining the nativism movement in individual states.

³Baltimore's reputation for political violence is discussed and traced in J. Thomas Scharf, "Mobs and Riots," *History of Baltimore City and County*, Chapter XLIV, pp. 778-794; "Baltimore and the Politics of Violence," Evitts, *A Matter of Allegiances*, Chapter IV, pp. 89-117. Challenges filed in the U.S. House of Representatives to the congressional elections of 1857, 1859 and 1860 contain over 1,800 pages of pleadings, affidavits, voter lists and testimony recounting election day fraud and violence. As an example, the affidavits of 8,347 Baltimoreans were obtained for one election in which only 2,581 stated they voted, 1,133 claimed personal violence prevented their voting, 3,788 stated they were intimidated from voting and 845 gave no reason for failing to vote. See U.S. Congress. House. *Maryland Contested Election—Third Congressional District*, 35th Cong., 1st sess., 1858. Misc. Doc. 68 (1112 pp.) (William Pinkney Whyte vs. J. Morrison Harris); U.S. Congress. House. *Maryland Contested Elections Cases*, 36th Cong., 1st sess., 1860, Misc. Docs. 4 and 55 (344 pp. and 354 pp.) (William G. Harrison vs. H. Winter Davis, 3rd District, and William P. Preston vs. J. Morrison Harris, 4th District).

⁴The reform groups and various individuals petitioned the General Assembly elected in 1859 to investigate election fraud and intimidation in Baltimore and to void the election results. Hearings were held with the entire Baltimore delegation being expelled from the General Assembly in an unprecedented action at the end of the 1860 session. Maryland. General Assembly, "Baltimore City Contested Elections." *House and Senate Documents*, 1860. Special elections were ordered for Baltimore in the fall of 1860 which were won by prominent mercantilists and professionals with southern ties. Baker, *The Politics of Continuity*, p. 57. The election challenges were not confined to Annapolis as congressional contests were also the subject of hearings in the U.S. House of Representatives as cited in Note 3, *supra*, although no results were overturned.

⁵Governor Hicks maintained contact with leaders of other border states and sent a delegation including Senator John Pendleton Kennedy, future Governor Augustus A. Bradford and Benjamin Howard to a Washington Peace conference called by the Virginia legislature. A summary of these unsuccessful Maryland efforts to prevent the split of the union is presented by Richard B. Duncan, "The Crises of Loyalty," in *Maryland, A History 1632-1974*, pp. 333-360. See also Robert Gunderson, "William C. Rives and the Old Gentlemen's Convention," *Journal of Southern History*, November 1956. Vol. 22, pp. 459-476.