

The dignity, firmness, ability and impartiality of his conduct, in his judicial capacity are too much matters of recent notoriety and general recollection to make any further detail necessary.

Evidently a judge to give character to the court and to justice. He seems to have been the greatest landowner among the judges, having owned a large total acreage on the neck between the Severn and South Rivers, from Annapolis out to the Bay. And he owned considerable property in Annapolis, including what is now known as the Hammond-Harwood House. Misfortune or bad management appears to have cut down his earnings in his late years, for he had a posthumous career in the law in a leading case on the application of a decedent's real estate to the payment of his debts.³

Gabriel Duvall, also a judge of the General Court, from 1796 until his appointment in 1802 to the position of Comptroller of the Treasury of the United States, was selected for the first district, but he declined the appointment. Four days later he was offered the position of Chancellor and declined that. He was later, from 1811 to 1836, one of the justices of the Supreme Court of the United States. For the sixth district, Robert Smith, of Baltimore, was first selected. He had been Secretary of the Navy under President Jefferson, from 1801 to 1805, and in the latter year Attorney General of the United States for a while, and then again Secretary of the Navy. Smith, too, declined the appointment, and also declined an appointment to the position of Chancellor after Duvall had declined it; and it was, apparently, an

3. Chase v. Lockerman, 11 Gill & Johnson, 185.