

on November 9, 1778, during the 1st session of the 1778–1779 Assembly to fill vacancy; qualified on July 20, 1779), 1779–1780 (resigned on May 16, 1780, during the 3rd session of the 1779–1780 Assembly), Term of 1786–1791: 1786 (declined to serve November 30, 1786); Lower House, Queen Anne's County, 1786–1787 (Elections 1, 2; Grievances 1, 2). OTHER PROVINCIAL/STATE OFFICES: 1st Council of Safety, Western Shore, 1775; judge, General Court, appointed February 12, 1778, resigned October 24, 1778; Special Council on the Defense of the State, appointed by Act of Assembly in October 1780; commissioner of confiscated British property, appointed 1781, resigned 1781; governor, 1782–1785; Executive Council, 1786 (elected April 27, 1786, to fill vacancy, resigned November 4, 1786); Constitution Ratification Convention, Harford County, 1788. LOCAL OFFICES: common councilman, Annapolis, elected 1766; churchwarden, St. Anne's Parish, Anne Arundel County, 1770–1771; St. Anne's Parish Vestry, Anne Arundel County, 1771–1774; alderman, Annapolis, 1781; Board of Visitors and Governors, Washington College, in office 1783, 1789. OUT OF STATE SERVICE: delegate, Continental Congress, elected June 1774, December 1774, April 1775, August 1775, May 1776, July 1776, November 1776, February 1777, December 1777 (disqualified because of appointment as judge of the General Court of Maryland), November 1778, April 1780 (to fill vacancy, did not attend, resigned May 13, 1780); judge, Court of Appeals for Admiralty and Prize Cases, appointed by Congress in 1780; judge, Federal District Court of Maryland, appointed 1789–death. STANDS ON PUBLIC/PRIVATE ISSUES: active in the Stamp Act protest in Annapolis, 1765–1766, and an early organizer of the Sons of Liberty in Anne Arundel County. He opposed officers' and clergymen's fees during the Fee Bill controversy, 1770–ca. 1773, and with *Samuel Chase* (1741–1811) debated the legality of the clergy's fees with the Rev. Jonathan Boucher in the *Maryland Gazette*. Paca's letters in the newspaper give clearly reasoned arguments for the illegality of the poll tax collected to support the Church of England. With Chase and *Thomas Johnson* (1732–1819), Paca successfully defended *Joseph Hanson Harrison* (?–1785) in a test case against the poll tax, 1773. Paca voted for the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776, and signed the engrossed copy on August 2, 1776. He declined serving as a delegate to the Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia in 1787 feeling that a strong central gov-

ernment would jeopardize the rights of states and individuals. A leader of the Antifederalists in Maryland, who opposed ratification of the U.S. Constitution, 1787–1788, Paca proposed twenty-eight amendments to the Constitution to ensure basic personal freedoms and limit federal power. Many of his ideas were later incorporated into the Bill of Rights. WEALTH DURING LIFETIME. PERSONAL PROPERTY: inherited 1 slave from his grandmother Martha Paca, 1746; assessed value, Anne Arundel and Queen Anne's counties, £3,265.6.8, including 69 slaves and 560 oz. plate, 1783; 92 slaves, Queen Anne's County, 1790; house and outbuildings on Wye Island valued at \$3,000.0.0, house in Anne Arundel County (tenanted) valued at \$400.0.0, and at least 40 slaves, 1798. ADDITIONAL COMMENT: Both Mary Chew, his first wife, and Ann Harrison, his second wife, were women of "affluent fortune." LAND AT FIRST ELECTION: probably 2,462 acres in Queen Anne's, Frederick, and Baltimore (later Harford) counties, plus 2 lots on Prince George Street and part of 3 lots on Church Street, Annapolis (695 acres in Baltimore County a gift from father; 115 acres in Baltimore County by purchase; 143 acres in Queen Anne's County by patent; 1,028 acres in Frederick County his part of a 2,057-acre patent held with *Samuel Chase* (1741–1811); 2 lots in Annapolis by purchase; 480 acres in Frederick County and part of 3 lots in Annapolis by marriage). SIGNIFICANT CHANGES IN LAND BETWEEN FIRST ELECTION AND DEATH: with wife Mary sold her 480 acres in Frederick County in 1768 and bought from Chase the other half of their 2,057-acre patent in that county, 1769; inherited through his wife Mary one-half of Wye Island (ca. 1,475 acres), Queen Anne's County, from her brother, 1770; sold the 143-acre tract in Queen Anne's County and 2,057-acre patent in Frederick County, 1771; after the division of their three Church Street lots in Annapolis with Mary's sister and *John Beale Bordley* (1726/27–1804) in 1772, the Pacas sold their portion, 1772–1773; purchased 1 lot on Cornhill Street in Annapolis, and ca. 175 acres in Baltimore County, 1773; through marriage to Ann Harrison, Paca became entitled to a life estate in one-sixth of her father's property in Pennsylvania; sold the 2 lots on Prince George Street in Annapolis, and purchased another lot in Annapolis and 2 lots on Walnut Street in Philadelphia, 1780; sold 1 of the Annapolis lots, 1782; under the terms of his father's will, Paca took control of at least 250 acres in Harford County before 1783 and in that year he sold ca. 700 acres