

**Attendees at George Washington's Resignation of his Commission
Old Senate Chamber, Maryland State House, December 23, 1783**

Compiled by the Maryland State Archives, February 2009

Known attendees:

George Washington
Thomas Mifflin, President of the Congress
Charles Thomson, Secretary of the Congress

Other known attendees:

Members of the Governor and Council of Maryland. Specific members are not identified; full membership listed below

Members of the government of the City of Annapolis. Specific members are not identified; full membership listed below

Henry Harford, former Proprietor of Maryland

Sir Robert Eden, former governor

Those who attended who wrote about the ceremony in some detail:

Dr. James McHenry, Congressman and former aide to Washington

Mollie Ridout

Dr. James Tilton, Congressman

There was a "gallery full of ladies" (per Mollie Ridout), most of whom are unknown

Members of the Maryland General Assembly

The General Assembly was in Session on December 23, and both houses convened in the State House on December 22 and on December 23. It is difficult to identify specific individuals who were in the Senate Chamber

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF 1783

William Paca, governor
November 3-December 26, 1783

SENATE

**WESTERN
SHORE**

James McHenry

**EASTERN
SHORE**

Edward Lloyd

George Plater	Daniel Carroll, president '	Matthew Tilghman	John Cadwalader (E, Dcl)
Thomas Stone (DNS)	Richard Barnes '	(DNS, R)	Robert Goldsborough (E, DNS)
Charles Carroll of Carrollton, president '	Benedict Edward Hall Samuel Hughes	John Henry William Hindman	William Perry (E)
John Smith		Josiah Polk (DNS)	

HOUSE OF

DELEGATES

ST MARY'S	John Dent, of John	CECIL	Nathan Hammond
William Somerville	BALTIMORE	Archibald Job	Thomas Ogle
John DeButts Edmund Plowden	Thomas Cockey Deye, speaker	Samuel Miller William Rowland	HARFORD Benjamin Bradford Norris
Philip Key	Charles Ridgely, of William	Benjamin Brevard	John Love
KENT	John Stevenson	ANNAPOLIS	John Taylor (DNS)
Peregrine Lethbrury William Stevenson	Charles Ridgely TALBOT	Allen Quynn Samuel Chase (DNS)	Ignatius Wheeler, Jr. CAROLINE
Robert Maxwell	James Hindman	PRINCE GEORGE'S	William Hopper
James Brown Dunn	Woolman Gibson (DNS)	Walter Bowie (DNS)	William Keene
ANNE ARUNDEL	John Roberts	Thomas Duckett	Thomas Hughlett
Brice T. B. Worthington	Edward Harris	George Digges	Thomas Hardcastle (DNS)
Nicholas Worthington	SOMERSET	Jeremiah Magruder	BALTIMORE TOWN
John Hall	Henry Jackson	QUEEN ANNE'S	John Sterett
Nicholas (Maccubbin)	John Done (DNS)	John Seney	David McMechen
Carroll	John Winder (DNS, R)	Clement Sewell	WASHINGTON
CALVERT	Gillis Polk	James Kent	John Stull (DNS)
John Grahame	DORCHESTER	Edward DeCoursey	James Chapline (DNS)
Levin Mackall	James Shaw	WORCESTER	Nicholas Swingle
Thomas Harwood	Daniel Sulivane	Nehemiah Holland	John Jeremiah Jacob

III

Wilham Ireland	Levin Kirkman (DNS)	William Morris	MONTGOMERY
CHARLES	Thomas Firmin Eccleston	Henry Dennis (DNS)	Laurence O'Neale
Frances Ware	(DNS, R)	Joseph Dashiell	Benjamin Edwards
Josias Hawkins	Gustavus Scott (E)	(DNS)	Edward Burgess (DNS)
		FREDERICK	
Samuel Hanson, Jr.		Thomas Beatty	Thomas Sprigg Wooton
		David Shriver	

Members of the Continental Congress recorded in the Journals of the Continental Congress 1774-1789, Volume XXV, 1783:

December 23, 1783

“Congress assembled: Present as before” (12/22/1783)

Hugh Williamson

Thomas Jefferson

December 22, 1783:

Present [listed by state rather than by delegate]:

Massachusetts

Rhode Island

Pennsylvania

Delaware

Maryland

Virginia

North Carolina

Mr. Jacob Read from the State of South Carolina

Mr. Abiel Foster from the State of New Hampshire

A letter was referred to James McHenry, David Howell, and Arthur Lee

December 20, 1783

Present for vote (19 total members):

Mr. Ellery

Mr. Forester

Mr. Gerry

Mr. Osgood

Mr. Partridge

Mr. Howell

Mr. Mifflin

Mr. Morris
Mr. Tilton
Mr. McComb
Mr. McHenry
Mr. Chase
Mr. Jefferson
Mr. Monroe
Mr. Hardy
Mr. Hawkins
Mr. Williamson
Mr. Spaight
Mr. Read

Members of the Governor and Council (as of December 23, 1783)

William Paca (Governor)

James Brice

Gabriel Duvall

Benjamin Ogle

John Hoskins Stone

Source: Archives of Maryland, Vol. 48, Journal and Correspondence of the State Council

Members of the Annapolis Mayor, Recorder, Alderman and Councilmen (as of December 23, 1783)

Jeremiah Townley Chase (Mayor)

Samuel Chase (Recorder)

James Brice (Alderman)

John Brice (Alderman)

John Bullen (Alderman)

Nicholas Carroll (Alderman)

Allen Quynn (Alderman)

Charles Carroll (Council) [?; may have resigned seat prior to December 23, 1783]

John Chalmers (Council)

Robert Cowden (Council) [?; may have resigned seat prior to December 23, 1783]

John Davidson (Council)

Francis Fairbrother (Council)

William Goldsmith (Council)

Frederick Green (Council)

Isaac Harris (Council)

Samuel H. Howard (Council)

Buriah Maybury (Council)

William Roberts (Council) [?; may have resigned seat prior to December 23, 1783]

Source: Annapolis Mayor, Alderman and Councilmen (Proceedings) MSA M 47-5, MSA M 47-6

Attendees documented in paintings depicting the resignation:

Note: Some individuals included in these paintings were not present at the resignation ceremony on December 23, 1783. Figures who were not or may not have been in attendance are noted by a ? symbol.

Present in John Trumbull's painting *General George Washington Resigning His Commission (1824)*:

Eleazor McComb (DE)
James Tilton (DE)
Edward Lloyd (MD) [?]
Jeremiah Townley Chase (MD)
James McHenry (MD)
Samuel Osgood (MA)
George Partridge (MA)
Elbridge Gerry (MA)
Benjamin Hawkins (NC)
Richard Dobbs Spaight (NC)
Hugh Williamson (NC)
Abiel Foster (NH)
Thomas Mifflin, President (PA)
Cadwallader Morris (PA)
William Ellery (RI)
David Howell (RI)
Jacob Read (SC)
Samuel Hardy (VA)
Thomas Jefferson (VA)
Arthur Lee (VA)
James Monroe (VA)
Charles Thomson, Secretary
Colonel Benjamin Hawkins
Colonel David Humphries
Charles Carroll of Carrollton [?] (was President of the Maryland Senate)
General William Smallwood
General Otho Holland Williams [?]
Colonel Samuel Smith [?]
Colonel John Eager Howard [?]
Martha Washington [was not present]
James Madison [? probably not present]

Present in Edwin White's painting *Washington Resigning His Commission as Commander in Chief (1858)*:

Benjamin Hawkins (NC)
Richard Dobbs Spaight (NC)
Joshua Barney [?]
General Arthur St. Clair [?]
Samuel Smith [?]

William Smallwood
Edward Lloyd (MD) [?]
Martha Washington's niece [was not present]
Martha Washington [was not present]
Dr. Oliphant [?]
Thomas McKean [? probably not present]
Samuel Chase [? probably not present]
Daniel of St. Thomas Jenifer [?]
William Paca
William Ellery
Thomas Stone [?]
Otho Holland Williams [?]
Elbridge Gerry
Thomas Jefferson
Abiel Foster
Alexander Hamilton [? probably not present]
John Eager Howard [?]
James Monroe
James Madison [? probably not present]
Charles Carroll of Carrollton [?] (was President of the Maryland Senate)
Charles Carroll of Carrollton's daughters [?]
George Washington
Benjamin Walker
David Humphreys
Charles Thomson
Old [unidentified] soldier [?]
Thomas Mifflin

Attendees listed in Elihu S. Riley, *The Ancient City...* (1887):

Note: Riley may have used Trumbull and White's paintings to compile his list of attendees present at the resignation. See page 206.

Colonel Benjamin Walker (Washington aide)
Colonel David Humphreys (Washington aide)
Thomas Jefferson
James Madison
James Monroe
John Eager Howard (MD)
William Smallwood (MD)
Elbridge Gerry (MA)
Thomas Stone (MD)
William Paca (MD)
Samuel Chase (MD)
Charles Carroll of Carrrollton (MD)
Joshua Barney
Alexander Hamilton