

## PREFACE

short, the quality of the research exhibited in these biographical profiles, and the extent to which they meet, and often exceed, the optimistic goals set by the project directors at the beginning of the project, is attributable entirely to the patient, hard work of the research staff; any faults in research design are the responsibility of the project directors.

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The Maryland General Assembly has been from its inception a vibrant, fascinating, and at times bewildering institution. The privilege of working on the biographies of the men who sat in the Assembly from 1637 through 1789 has been enlightening, albeit at times frustrating, for us all. This project has established beyond doubt that much can be learned through comprehensive biographical research, not only about the men who served in the General Assembly but about the Assembly itself and Maryland history in general. With support from