

DORCHESTER

Named for the Earl of Dorset, a family friend of the Calverts. The exact date and the legal origin of the County are unknown, but it was certainly in existence by February 16, 1668/69 when a writ was issued to the sheriff of the County. The County seat is Cambridge.

FREDERICK

Named probably for Frederick Calvert who became sixth and last Lord Baltimore. It was created by Chapter 15, Acts of 1748. The County seat is Frederick.

GARRETT

Named for John W. Garrett, industrialist and financier. It was created by Chapter 212 of the Acts of 1872. The County seat is Oakland.

HARFORD

Named for Henry Harford, last Proprietary. He was a son of Frederick, sixth Lord Baltimore, but because of his illegitimate birth did not inherit the title. The County was erected by Chapter 6 of the Acts of 1773. The County seat is Bel Air.

HOWARD

Named for John Eager Howard, soldier and statesman. The County was created in 1851 by Article VIII, Section 1 of the Constitution of that year. However, the area which later became Howard County was set up as Howard District of Anne Arundel County by Chapter 22 of the Acts of 1838; confirmed by Chapter 50, Acts of 1839 and thereafter, until 1851, enjoyed the status of a county except that it was not represented in the General Assembly. The County seat is Ellicott City.

KENT

This County derives its name from the English county of the same name. It was first referred to as a county in 1642, but it could have acquired this status as early as 1640 when mention is made of a sheriff for the Isle of Kent. The County seat is Chestertown.

MONTGOMERY

Named for the Revolutionary General Richard Montgomery. The County was created by the Constitutional Convention of 1776. The County seat is Rockville.

PRINCE GEORGE'S

Named for Prince George of Denmark, husband of Queen Anne. This County was erected by Chapter 13, Acts of 1695 (May Session). The County seat is Upper Marlboro.

QUEEN ANNE'S

Named for Queen Anne. It was erected by Chapter 3 of the Acts of 1706. The County seat is Centreville.