

Second Charter of Annapolis from Historic Annapolis parchment  
(transcript by Jean Russo, Maryland State Archives)

Anne by the grace of God of Great Brittain France and Ireland and the Dominions thereunto belonging Queen Defender of the ffaith &c To all & singular our Faithfull subjects within our province of Maryland Greeting Whereas there is a very pleasant healthfull and Comodius place for Trade by Act of the Gen<sup>ll</sup> Assembly of this our Province laid out for a Towne and Port and called Annapolis in honour of us Which said Towne and Port hath in few years (especially since the accession of our Trusty and well beloved John Seymour Esqr our Cap<sup>t</sup> Generall and Governour in Chief of this our Province to the Government thereof) [*sic*] very considerably increased in the number of its Inhabitants as well as buildings both publick and private so That it Excelleth all other Townes and Ports in our said Province and for that our present Seat of Government within our province aforesaid is fixed at the said Port and Towne Whereby the same is become the Cheif Mart of the whole Country Wee being willing to Encourage all our Good and Faithfull subjects as well at present residing and Inhabitting or which hereafter shall or may Inhabitt or reside within the same Port of Annapolis of our Royall Grace good will and meere motion with the advice of our Councill in our said Province have thought fitt and do by these our letters Pattents Constitute and Erect the said Towne and Port of Annapolis together with the Circuites and precincts thereof Including the Lands heretofore laid [2] out for the said Towne and Port of Annapolis Publick pasture and Towne Comon together with the River & Creeks adjacent into a City by the name of the City of Annapolis and do grant to the Inhabitants of the said City that the same City shall be an Incorporate[d] City Consisting of a Mayor one person Learned in the Law stiled and bearing the office of Recorder of the said City and six Aldermen and Tenn other persons to be Comon Councill men of the said City which said Mayor Recorder [Aldermen] & Comon Councill men shall be a body Incorporate and one Community for ever in Right and by the name of Mayor Recorder Aldermen and Comon Councill of the said City of Annapolis & shall be able and Capable to sue and be sued at Law and to act and Execute do and performe as a body Incorporate w<sup>ch</sup> shall have succession for ever and to that end to have a Comon Seale and that Amos Garrett Esqr one of the Inhabitants of the said City shall for the present be and be named Mayor of the said City for the Ensueing year and Wornell Huntt Esqr Recorder thereof and William Bladen John Freeman Benjamin Fordham Evan Jones Thomas Bordley and Josiah Wilson Esqrs Inhabitants of the said City shall be Aldermen

thereof so long as they shall well behave themselves therein having first taken and subscribed the Test and severall [3] Oaths for security of the Government as by Law Established and also the Oath appointed by us or our present Governour to be taken by the Mayor Recorder and Aldermen of the City of Annapolis aforesaid w<sup>ch</sup> shall be administered unto them by our Governour in Cheif or Keeper of the Great Seale of this our Province for the time being or by such other person or persons as We our heires and successors or our Gov<sup>r</sup> aforesaid for the time being shall from time to time authorise and appoint to administer the same and We grant that the said Mayor Recorder and Aldermen or the Major part of them shall Elect and Choose Tenn other of the most sufficient of the Inhabitants of the said City being Free men thereof to be of the Comon Councill of the said City for so long time as they shall well behave themselves And to perpetuate the succession of the said Mayor Recorder Aldermen and Comon Councill in all time to come We do grant that for the future they shall assemble in some convenient place in the said City upon the feast Day of S<sup>t</sup>. Michael the Arch Angel in every year and shall Elect and Choose by the Major Vote of such of them as shall be then present one other of the Aldermen of the said City for the time being to be Mayor of the said City for the Ensueing year and upon decease or removall of the said Mayor of the said City for the time being or upon any decease [4] or deceases removall or removalls of the said Recorder or Aldermen or any of them or within one month after such respective decease or deceases removall or removalls the residue of the said Aldermen together with the said Mayor (if he shall be living[]) or the major part of them shall at a sett time by them to be appointed within the said City and precincts Elect and Nominate some other person or persons to be Mayor Recorder Alderman or Aldermen of the said City in the place or places of such person or persons so deceased or removed respectively as the case shall require so as the said Mayor so to be Elected and Nominated be at the time of such Election and nomination actually one of the Aldermen of the said City and so as the said Recorder so to be Elected and Nominated be a person Learned in the Law and so as the said Alderman or Aldermen so to be Elected and nominated be actually at the time of such Election and nomination of the Comon Councill of the said City the said Mayor Recorder, Alderman or Aldermen so to be Elected and nominated first taking the Severall and Respective Oaths before mentioned to be appointed as aforesaid and shall likewise then fill up by the Election of the Free Voters of the said City out of and from among the Inhabitants and free holders of the said City the full number [5] of tenn persons to be Common Councillmen and that the said persons hereby appointed and named or hereafter to be Elected and nominated Mayor

Recorder or Aldermen be Justices of the peace within the City Precincts and Liberties thereof having first taken the oaths usually appointed to be taken by the Justices of the peace and the said Mayor Recorder and Aldermen hereby named and appointed or hereafter to be Elected and nominated or any three of them whereof the said Mayor or Recorder for the time being shall be one shall have within the precincts of the said City full power and authority to make Constables and other necessary officers & to rule order and governe the Inhabitants thereof as Justices of the peace are or shall be authorized to do and shall have power to Execute all the Laws ordinances and Statutes on that behalf made as fully and amply as if they were authorized thereto by Express Commission named therein willing & commanding that no other Justices of the peace or Quorum w<sup>th</sup>in our said County or Province do at any time hereafter take upon them or any of them to Execute the office of a Justice of peace within the said City or in the Precincts thereof notwithstanding any Commission at large authoriseing them thereunto saving the authority and jurisdiction of her Majestys Justices of Oyer & Terminer [6] and Gaole delivery now or hereafter to be assigned dureing the time of their holding their Severall & respective Courts in the said City and further wee will and grant unto the said Mayor Recorder Aldermen and Comon Councill of the said City for the time being full power and authority after the space of Six years to Elect a sherriff for the said City (but that untill then the sheriff of Ann Arundell County for the time being shall be sherriff for the said City) and to make order and appoint such by Laws and Ordinances among themselves for the regulation & good Government of Trade and other matters Exigences and things within the said City and precincts as to them or the major part shall seem meet to be consonante to reason & not contrary but as near as conveniently may be agreeable to the Laws and Statutes now in Force which said by Laws shall be observed Kept and performed by all man<sup>r</sup> of persons Trading and residing within the said City under such reasonable pains penaltys and Forfeitures as shall be imposed by the said Mayor Recorder and Aldermen and Comon Councill men or the major parte of them then assembled from time to time not exceeding forty shillings sterling the said paines penaltys and Forfeitures to be raised by distress & sale of the goods of such person so offending and to be employed for the publick benefitt of the said [7] City at their Discretion And ffurther Wee do grant and give full power Lycence Previlidge and authority to the Mayor Recorder Aldermen and Comon Councill men of the said City for the time being and their successors for ever and also all Freeholders of the said City that is to say all persons owning a whole Lott of Land with an house built thereon according to Law and all persons

actually inhabiting and residing in the said City having a Visable Estate of the value of twenty pounds sterling at the least and likewise all persons that hereafter shall serve five years to any Trade within this City and shall after the expiration of their time be actually house keepers and Inhabitants in the same to send two Citizens and Delegates to every of our assembly or assemblies hereafter to be held or at any time or times hereafter to be called to be held for this our said Province of Maryland to be Elected and Chosen out of the Inhabitants actually being & residing within the said City having a Freehold or Visable Estate of the value of twenty pounds sterling therein by the said Mayor Recorder Aldermen Comon Councill nmen Freeholders and Freemen as aforesaid or the Major Part of them being then present by Virtue of our Writt or Writts of action to be sent to them for that purpose which said Writt or Writts Wee [8] do hereby grant shall be Issued out and sent to the said Mayor Recorder and Aldermen when and so often as occasion shall require Provided that such Elector or Voters as afd do take an oath to be true to the Interest of the said City before they be admitted to such Vote And provided also and at all times after the end of the next Generall Assembly to be held for this Province no Freeman as aforesaid not being a Free holder as afd shall have the Liberty of such Vote as aforesaid untill three months after such his Freedom obtained And when hereafter there shall be any Generall Assembly to be held according as Writts shall be sent to the Severall and respective Countys for Electing Deputys or Delegates for their severall and respective Countys in this our Province of Maryland Wee Further grant that the said Citizens and Delegates by them so as aforesaid Elected and sent shall have full & free Votes and Voices in all and every of our Gen<sup>ll</sup> Assemblys touching or Concerning all matters or things there to be discoursed and handled as other the Deputyes or Delegates of the severall and respective Countys formerly have had now have or hereafter shall have and further Wee grant and give Lycence to the Mayor Recorder Alderman and Comon Councill of the said City for the time being & their successors for ever to have and to hold two Marketts [9] weekly within the said City on every wednesday and Saturday in the week in some Convenient place to be by them appointed within the precincts & Libertys of the said City and also two Fairs yearly to be kept on May day otherwise called S<sup>t</sup>. Phillip and Jacobs day and on the feast of S<sup>t</sup>. Michael the Arch Angell (or on the next day succeeding each or other of them in case they shall happen to fall on the Lords day) for the sale and vending all manner of goods Cattle wares and Merchandizes whatever on w<sup>ch</sup> said Fair days and for two days before and after all persons coming to the said Fairs together with their

Cattle goods wares and merchandizes & returning thence shall be Exempt and Priviledged from any arrest attachments or Executions whatsoever and that the said Mayor and Aldermen shall have power to sett such Reasonable Tole upon such goods Cattle Merchandizes and other Comoditys as shall be sold therein respectively as they shall be thought fitt not exceeding six pence on every beast sold and the twentieth parte of the value of any Comodity and shall and may hold a Court of pypowdry dureing the said Fair for the Determination of all Controversys and Quarrels which may happen therein according to y<sup>e</sup> usuall Course in England in the like Cases And Wee grant unto them all profitts and perquisites due incident [10] and and belonging to the said Markett Faire and Court of Pypowdry And Further We [*sic*] do grant that the said Mayor Recorder and Aldermen or any three or more of them shall hold a Court of Hustings w<sup>th</sup>in the said City where they are hereby impowered to make proper officers and settle reasonable Fees not Exceeding what are now allowed in the County Court and shall have Jurisdiction and hold plea of Trespass and Ejectment for any Lands or Tenements within the said City as also of all Writts of Dower for the same Lands and Tenements and of all other actions personall & mixt and as a Court of Record give Judg<sup>t</sup> and award Execution thereon according to the Laws and Statutes of England and this province provided the Demand in the said action personall and mixt Exceed not the sume of six pound Tenn shillings sterling or seaventeen hundred pounds of Tobacco And provided Nevertheless that any party or partys plaintiffs or Defendants shall be at their Liberty on good grounds to bring Writts of habeas Corpus & Certiorari to remove any Plaintiffs from y<sup>e</sup> said Hustings to the Provinciaall Court of this Province and also appeale from the Judgment of the Mayors Court or bring Writts of Error at their Choice to the provincially Court under such Limitation and Regulation as is allready by the act of assembly of this Province assigned for prosecuting appeals and Writts of Error [11] from the County Courts to the provincially — In Testimony whereof Wee have caused these our Letters to be made patents Given at Annapolis under the great seale of our said Province Wittness our Trusty and well beloved John Seymour Esqr Captain Generall and Govern<sup>r</sup> in Cheife of our said Province this twenty second day of November in the seventh year of our Reigne &c. Annoq Domini 1708

Jo: Seymour

[12]

2. Nov<sup>r</sup> 1708  
Queens Patent  
Erecting Annapolis in  
a Citie.