

Important changes were made by the Legislature in the organic law of the State in the year 1837. Amongst these changes was the election of the Governor by the people.

The second Constitution of the State was reported and adopted by the Convention which assembled at Annapolis November 4, 1850, and which Constitution was ratified by the people on the first Wednesday of June, 1851.

The third Constitution of the State was reported and adopted by the Convention which assembled at Annapolis April 27, 1864, and was ratified by the people on the 12th and 13th of October, 1864. The fourth and present Constitution of the State, was formed and adopted by the Convention which assembled at Annapolis, May 8, 1867, and ratified by the people, September 18, 1867.

ANNAPOLIS.

The first white person to behold the site of Annapolis, the present State capital, was Capt. John Smith, who saw it in 1608, in a voyage up the Chesapeake. It was settled in 1649, by a company of English Puritans seeking relief from religious persecution, and called Providence. These men were soon urged to take the oath of allegiance to Lord Baltimore, but they refused, claiming that it were equivalent to declaring their fealty to the Catholic Church, and that Lord Baltimore was aiming at absolute dominion. However, by 1650 the Courts of Anne Arundel county were established, and Providence sent delegates to the General Assembly of Maryland.

In 1694, the capital of the State was removed to Annapolis. Annapolis, between this period and the Revolution, became the centre of refined and attractive society, noted for its gayety and intelligence, and which gained for the city the title of "The Athens of America."

On September 3d, 1765, Annapolis made the first forcible and successful opposition to the Stamp Act. Zachariah Hood, the stamp officer, was prevented from landing with his stamps, and Thomas McNeir, one of the mob, had his thigh broke in the first fight for American Liberty on American soil.