

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 broken in the first fight for American Liberty on American soil.

In 1845, the United States Naval Academy was located at Annapolis. It is claimed that the first free school in America, the first building erected to the dramatic art, and the first union of Federal and Confederate soldiers to decorate the graves of their common dead, were at Annapolis. The last event took place in May, 1883.

In addition to the Governor and Secretary of State the following State officers are located in Annapolis: Comptroller, Treasurer, Commissioner of the Land office, Tax Commissioner and Commander of the State Fishery Force.

THE STATE HOUSE.

The first State House built at Annapolis was erected in 1696. It was burnt down in 1704.

The second State House was erected in 1704. This remained until 1772, when it was pulled down to make room for the present edifice.

The building of this, the third State House, on the same site of the two preceding ones, was commenced in 1772, but the dome was not finished until after the Revolution.