

Maryland presents a great variety of configuration, soil and climate. The four most westerly counties extend through the systems of mountain ranges known as the Allegany and the Blue Ridge; east of these is the Piedmont region, gently inclining towards tide-water, and on both sides of the bay lies the Coastal Plain.

The foundation of Maryland is primarily due to George Calvert, first Baron of Baltimore. When that nobleman, who had been a trusted councillor of James I, and had held the office of Principal Secretary of State, became a convert to the Roman Catholic faith, he retired from public life and determined to spend the remainder of his days in the New World. He already held by charter a considerable part of the Island of Newfoundland, called the province of Avalon; and to it he removed with his family in 1628. But after about a year's sojourn in this bleak region, the extreme severity of the long winters, and the evident impossibility of making Avalon more than a fishing station, determined Baltimore to seek a home in some more genial clime; and he asked the King, Charles I, for a grant of land north of the Potomac, within the territory that had previously been granted to the Virginia Company, but which now, by the legal forfeiture of their charter, was again in the King's hands.

His request was granted, and the charter made out. Before it had passed the great seal, Baltimore died, and the charter was issued in 1632, to his son, Cecilius Calvert, second Baron of Baltimore, who named his province Maryland, in compliment to the Queen, Henrietta Maria.

The territory thus conveyed was considerably more extensive than that covered by the present State of Maryland, being bounded on the north by the fortieth parallel of north latitude, on the east by the Delaware bay and river, and the Atlantic ocean, on the south by a line drawn from the mouth of the Potomac river eastward to the ocean, and on the west by the farther or right-hand bank of the Potomac to its most distant source, and thence due north to the fortieth parallel.

The privileges conveyed by the charter were the most complete ever granted by an English sovereign to a subject; the Proprietary was invested with palatinate authority, under which were included all royal powers, both of peace and war. The province was entirely self-governed, all laws being made by the Proprietary and the freeman, and these laws required no confirmation from the King or Parliament. By an express clause the King renounced for himself and for his successors forever, all right of taxation in Maryland. All that was required of the colonists was that they should be British subjects, and that the Proprietary should acknowledge the King