

ORIGIN OF THE NAMES OF COUNTIES, WITH DATE OF FORMATION AND AREA.

Counties.	Origin of Name.	Date of Formation.	Area in Sq. Miles.
St. Mary's ¹	In honor of the Virgin Mary, the landing having been made on the Feast of the Annunciation.	1637	372
Kent ²	After the English County.....	1642	281
Anne Arundel ³	After the Lady Anne Arundel, wife of Cæcilius, second Lord Baltimore.....	1650	425
Calvert ⁴	After the family name of the proprietary.....	1654	222
Charles ⁵	After Charles, Lord Baltimore.....	1658	451
Baltimore ⁶	From the Proprietary's Irish Barony, (Celtic bilte mor; i. e., the large town).....	1659	656
Talbot ⁷	After Grace Talbot, daughter of George, first Lord Baltimore.....	1661	286
Somerset ⁸	After Mary Somerset, sister of Lord Baltimore.....	1666	362
Dorchester ⁹	After Earl Dorset, a family friend of the Calverts.....	1668	618
Cecil ¹⁰	After the forename of the second Lord Baltimore.....	1674	360

¹There is great difficulty in assigning exact dates to the erection of Counties in the early years of the Province, from the fact that considerable confusion exists between the county and the hundred, sheriffs being commissioned for the latter as well as the former, and because Counties were erected sometimes by order in Council, proclamation or by Act of Assembly. A series of interesting historical maps has been prepared by Dr. Edward B. Mathews, Assistant State Geologist, which, when published, will shed considerable light on the subject.

A commission was issued to James Baldrige as sheriff of St. Mary's county, June 29th, 1637, (*Archiv. of Md.*, 3:61), and the courts were put in operation by Acts of Assembly, 1638-9, (*Archiv.* 1:46-57).

²A commission was issued to John Langford as sheriff of the Isle of Kent, February 9th, 1637, (*Archiv.* 3:81), and on Aug. 2d, 1642, a commission was issued to Giles Brent, for the county of Kent (*Archiv.* 3:106). County government was evidently organized in that year as the expenses of the Assembly were assessed on the counties of St. Mary's and Kent.

³Erected by Act of Assembly, 1650, ch. 8. Name changed to Providence by Act of 1654, ch. 17. Name restored in 1658.

⁴Erected by order in Council July 3d, 1654, (*Archiv.* 3:308). In October of the same year the name was changed to Patuxent under the Cromwell administration, (*Archiv.* 1:341). Name restored, 1658.

⁵Erected by order in Council, April 13th, 1658 (*Archiv.* 3:341). An earlier Charles county was erected by order in Council, October 3d, 1650, from part of the territory now included in St. Mary's, Charles and Prince George's counties. This order was repealed by order of July 3d, 1654, *supra*.

⁶Erected by order in Council. No full record, but writ of election was issued to sheriff January 12th, 1659, (*Archiv.* 1:381)

⁷No record. Writ of election issued to sheriff February 18th, 1661, (*Archiv.* 1:426 and 3:448).

⁸Erected by order in Council August 22d, 1666, (*Archiv.* 3:553).

⁹No record. Writ issued to sheriff February 16, 1668, (*Archiv.* 2:155).

¹⁰Erected by proclamation of Governor Charles Calvert June 8th, 1674, (*Archiv.* 15:39-41). Delegates are named as present at Assembly from Cecil county February 12th, 1674, (*Archiv.* 2:421).