

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 center of refined and attractive society, noted for its gayety and intelligence, and which gained for the city the title of "The Athens of America."

The "Town of Anne Arundel" was surveyed and laid out in 1694 by Richard Beard, and in 1696 this map and survey was legalized by Act of Assembly. The original plat having been destroyed with the State House in the fire of 1704, a resurvey on the original lines, was ordered by the Acts of 1718, Chapter 19, James Stoddart being employed for this purpose. The Stoddart plat is now in the Land Office.

On September 3, 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 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.