

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

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

<sup>1</sup>There 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 some times 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 29, 1637. (*Archiv. of Md.*, 3:61), and the courts were put in operation by Acts of Assembly, 1638-9, (*Archiv.* 1:46-57).

<sup>2</sup>A commission was issued to John Langford as sheriff of the Isle of Kent, February 9, 1637 (*Archiv.* 3:81), and on August 2, 1642, a commission was issued to Giles Brent, for the county of Kent (*Archiv.* 3:105). 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.

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

<sup>4</sup>Erected by order in Council July 3, 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.

<sup>5</sup>Erected by order in Council, April 13, 1658 (*Archiv.* 3:341). An earlier Charles county was erected by order in Council, October 3, 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 3, 1654, *supra*.

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

<sup>7</sup>No record. Writ of election issued to sheriff February 18, 1661 (*Archiv.* 1:425 and 3:448).

<sup>8</sup>Erected by order in Council, August 22, 1666 (*Archiv.* 3:553).

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

<sup>10</sup>Erected by proclamation of Governor Charles Calvert, June 6, 1674 (*Archiv.* 15:39-41). Delegates are named as present at Assembly from Cecil county, February 12, 1674 (*Archiv.* 2:421).