

NAMES AND ORIGINS OF COUNTIES

ALLEGANY

The name is from the Indian word Oolikhanna meaning "Beautiful Stream." It was erected by an Act of Assembly, Chapter 29, Acts of 1789. The County seat is Cumberland.

ANNE ARUNDEL

This county was named for the Lady Anne Arundel, wife of Cecilius, Second Lord Baltimore and founder of the Colony. It owes its origin to an Act of Assembly, Chapter 8, Acts of 1650. The County seat is Annapolis, which is also the Capital of the State.

BALTIMORE CITY

The existence of Baltimore City as a distinct governmental unit was provided for by the Constitutional Convention of 1850 when it was separated from Baltimore County. The name is that of the Proprietary's Irish Barony.

BALTIMORE

The name of this County, like that of Baltimore City, derives from the name of the Proprietary's Irish Barony. Its legal origin is not known, but it was surely in existence by January 12, 1659/60 when a writ was issued to the sheriff of the County. The County seat is Towson.

CALVERT

This County takes its name from the family name of the Proprietary. It was established by an Order in Council of 1654 and it was called Patuxent County until 1658. The County seat is Prince Frederick.

CAROLINE

The sister of the last Lord Baltimore, Lady Caroline Calvert, gave her name to this County. It owes its existence to Chapter 6 of the Acts of Assembly of 1773. The County seat is Denton.

CARROLL

This County was named for the distinguished Revolutionary statesman, Charles Carroll of Carrollton. It was erected by Chapter 19 of the Acts of 1836. The County seat is Westminster.

CECIL

Named for Cecilius, Second Lord Baltimore and founder of the Colony. This County was erected in 1674 by Proclamation of the Governor. The County seat is Elkton.

CHARLES

Named for Charles Calvert, son and heir of Cecilius, Second Lord Baltimore. It owes its origin to an Order in Council of 1658. It is not to be confused with an earlier Charles County, known as Old Charles County. The County seat is La Plata.

DORCHESTER

Named for Earl Dorset, a family friend of the Calverts. The exact date and the legal origin of the County are unknown, but it was certainly in existence by February 16, 1668/69 when a writ was issued to the sheriff of the county. The County seat is Cambridge.

FREDERICK

This county was named for Frederick Calvert who became sixth and last Lord Baltimore, or Frederick Louis, Prince of Wales, or Frederick the Great. It was created by Chapter 15, Acts of 1748. The County seat is Frederick.