THE CHARTER OF MARYLAND

On June 29, 1632, Charles I, King of England, issued the charter creating the colony of Maryland. The charter was issued to Lord Baltimore, who was given the right to govern the colony and to establish religious freedom for all settlers. The charter was intended to provide a haven for Catholics who were being persecuted in England and elsewhere in Europe. The colony was to be named in honor of Queen Henrietta Maria, the wife of Charles I. The charter also included provisions for the establishment of a university and the abolition of slavery.

In 1634, Lord Baltimore sent two ships, the Maryland and the cloves, to establish the colony. The settlement was founded at St. Mary's City, on the eastern shore of Maryland. The colony quickly grew, and by 1638, there were several towns and farms in the area.

The charter of Maryland was unique because it guaranteed religious freedom to all settlers, regardless of their faith. This was a major advancement in the history of American democracy.

The colony of Maryland was largely successful, and it became an important center of trade and commerce. The city of Baltimore, which was founded in 1729, became the capital of the state in 1782.