

the larger part of them prior to the beginning of the eighteenth century.

It has been customary in enumerating the counties of the State to arrange them according to the dates of their erection and this arrangement is the one most familiar on account of its constant use in legislative roll calls. The origin of the names of the counties together with the dates of their formation and their areas are given in the following table:

Counties.	Origin of Name.	Date of formation.	Area in square miles.
St. Mary's.....	In honor of the Virgin Mary, the landing having been made on the Feast of the Annunciation .....	1637	269.1
Kent .....	After the English county.....	1642	281.0
Anne Arundel....	After the Lady Anne Arundel, wife of Cecilius, second Lord Baltimore.....	1650	430.4
Calvert .....	After the family name of the Proprietary.	1650	216.8
Charles .....	After Charles, Lord Baltimore.....	1658	462.0
Baltimore .....	From the Proprietary's Irish Barony (Celtic bilte mor; i. e. the large town).	1659	646.8
Talbot .....	After Grace Talbot, daughter of George, first Lord Baltimore.....	1662	267.1
Somerset .....	After Mary Somerset, sister of Lord Baltimore .....	1666	328.6
Dorchester .....	After Earl Dorset, a family friend of the Calverts .....	1668	573.2
Cecil .....	After the forename of the second Lord Baltimore .....	1674	374.6
Prince George's..	After Prince George of Denmark.....	1695	479.6
Queen Anne's....	After Queen Anne of England.....	1706	363.4
Worcester .....	After the Earl of Worcester.....	1742	491.5
Frederick .....	After Frederick, heir apparent.....	1748	660.0
Caroline .....	After Lady Calvert, sister of the last Lord Baltimore .....	1773	317.4
Harford .....	After Henry Harford, last Proprietary...	1773	439.8
Washington .....	After General Washington.....	1776	457.3
Montgomery ....	After General Montgomery.....	1776	517.6
Allegany .....	From Oolikhanna; i. e. beautiful stream..	1789	440.5
Carroll .....	After Charles Carroll of Carrollton.....	1836	445.3
Howard .....	After Col. John Eager Howard, the elder.	1851	249.1
Wicomico .....	After the river of that name, from wicko, house, and mekee, building; i. e. referring to an Indian town on the banks.	1867	368.9
Garrett .....	After John W. Garrett.....	1872	681.0