

## Preamble

On June 20, 1632, the King of England granted the charter of Maryland to Cecil Calvert, 2nd Lord Baltimore. On March 25, 1634, after almost 2 years of strenuous promotion and careful planning, 140 intrepid adventurers stepped forth on the shores of St. Clement's Island in the Potomac River. The settlements they ~~found~~ founded in Maryland were among the earliest in North America to welcome European settlers searching for a better life. During the years that the first capital of Maryland was at St. Mary's City from 1634 to 1694, Marylanders made significant and unique contributions to the development of the American nation, the greatest of which is the first successful experiment in religious toleration.

Maryland can look back with pride on 350 years of political, social and cultural achievement as one of the original 13 colonies that created these United States. The Anniversary Year of 1984 will provide an opportunity to celebrate these achievements with visitors from all over America and around the world. There is no more fitting way to celebrate the 350th anniversaries of the Charter and the founding of Maryland than to recognize at the same time the conclusion of the War of Independence in Annapolis where, on December 23, 1783, General George Washington resigned his commission as Commander-in-Chief of the Continental Army and where, on January 14, 1784, the Treaty of Paris ending that war was ratified by the Congress of the United States.

WHEREAS, It is appropriate for the State of Maryland to plan and conduct certain observances marking the 350th anniversaries of the granting of the Charter of Maryland on June 20, 1632, and the founding of Maryland on March 25, 1634; and

WHEREAS, It is appropriate for the State of Maryland to plan and conduct certain observances marking the 200th anniversaries of George Washington resigning his commission as Commander-in-Chief of the Army on December 23, 1783 in Annapolis and the Ratification of the Treaty of Paris in Annapolis on January 14, 1784 ending the American Revolution; and

WHEREAS, Article 41, Sections 365 through 374A of the Annotated Code of Maryland established the St. Mary's City Commission to preserve, develop, and maintain ancient St. Mary's City, Maryland's first settlement under the charter; and

WHEREAS, Article 41, Section 181E(m) of the Annotated Code of Maryland directs a joint committee appointed by the Maryland Historical Trust and the Maryland Hall of Records Commission to plan and conduct observances in the Maryland State House for the bicentennial anniversaries of the