

Timeline of Baltimore

The following is a timeline of the history of the city of Baltimore, Maryland, United States

17th century

- 1608 – Captain John Smith, (c.1580-1631), sails north up Chesapeake Bay from the newly established Virginia colony at Jamestown, settled on the James River the year before, and records in his journal, first descriptions of the area that would become the future site of the city of Baltimore, then a hunting ground for local American natives. Smith records in his map and journal "a river not inhabited yet navigable", which he names the "Bolus Flu" for the reddish soil with iron ore found – Indians who hunt in the region call it the "Patapsco".
- 1624 - Sir George Calvert, (1579-1632), resigns office of King James I's Secretary of State, for the Kingdom of England and announces himself as converted to the minority, formerly outlawed faith of Roman Catholicism, and withdraws from public life. He received the title of nobility as Baron Baltimore ("Lord Baltimore") as a sign of personal friendship and gratitude from the English Monarch. He is added to the Irish peerage for the town of Baltimore, in the western half of County Cork in the province of Munster on the southern coast tip of Ireland, which England dominates. He will be succeeded by descendants of five more "Lord Baltimores" until title is extinguished in 1771 with the death of the sixth and last, Frederick Calvert.
- 1632 – After an unsuccessful attempt by Calvert to found an English colony in Avalon in Newfoundland (today's eastern Canada), a second Charter is granted to a colony further to the south in a more temperate climate by King Charles I of England to Sir George Calvert, (1579-1632), First Lord Baltimore, his father was King James I's former Secretary of State and respected friend of the monarch. This second grant is named "Maryland" for the King Charles's wife and Queen Consort Henrietta Maria of France, (1609-1669), and is laid out with straight but irregular inexact boundaries along the eastern and western shores of the Chesapeake Bay, north of the earlier 1607 colony of Virginia, above the separating Potomac River, and south and west of the Delaware River and Bay. Bordering the Swedish (New Sweden) and Dutch colonies of New Netherland, to the northeast and to keep them from moving south from the town of New Amsterdam with its Fort Amsterdam (modern New York City) along the Hudson River. These lay in between and south of other extensive English colonies settled beginning 1620 in New England, such as Massachusetts Bay, Plymouth, Boston and Connecticut colonies.
- 1634 – *The Ark* and *The Dove*, ships of George's eldest son, the second Lord Baltimore Cecilius Calvert's (1605-1675), first colonizing expedition, led by his younger brother Leonard Calvert, (1606-1647), (sent as first provincial governor), land on March 25th (later celebrated as an official state holiday, "Maryland Day") at Blakistone Island (St. Clement's Island) off the north shore of the Potomac River, bringing the first European settlers and African slaves to the new colonial Province of Maryland,
- 1650 – "Ann Arundell" County "erected" (established) further north along the western shore of the Chesapeake Bay near St. Mary's City along the Potomac River. Named for Lady Ann Arundell, [antique spelling different from modern], (1615/1616-1649), wife of Cecilius Calvert, second Lord Baltimore.
- 1659 – Baltimore County established in the northeast section of the Province, north of previous Anne Arundel County laid out nine years before, which it is cut from. Includes what is now Baltimore City, Baltimore County, Harford and Cecil counties. Officeholder of Sheriff for Baltimore County first designated in legal papers from the General Assembly is mentioned in writing for serving of legal papers.
- 1661 – First court sits for Baltimore County, meeting at Captain Thomas Howell's place in what is now modern Cecil County in the far northeast corner of the province.
 - Charles Gorsuch, a Quaker, patents 50 acres of land on narrow jagged peninsula which juts out between two branches into the main lower Patapsco River, ending in "Whetstone Point". He promises to pay Lord Baltimore, the amount of 61 English pounds sterling per year for the use of the land.

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