

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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- David Jones hires Peter Carroll to survey 380 acres along the stream which is later named "Jones Falls" in his honor. He built a house and is known as Baltimore's first settler.
- 1663 – Alexander Mountenay patented land named "Mountenay's Neck" along the Harford Run stream, where Central Avenue, formerly Canal Street, is now paved over in old east Baltimore's Jonestown and which is later sold and resurveyed to William Fell.
 - Land is patented along Curtis Bay and Curtis Creek southwest off the lower Patapsco River estuary to Paul Kinsey naming it "Curtis's Neck".
- 1664 – Capt. Thomas Todd purchases land at North Point, end of the "Patapsco Neck" peninsula (in southeastern Baltimore County), between the Back River and the Patapsco's north shore, followed by John Boring, merchant in 1679.
- 1668 – Thomas Cole takes up 550 acres of property named "Cole's Harbor" in future site of northern Baltimore Town and combines it with "Todd's Range" along the "Basin" (later Inner Harbor) waterfront on the Northwest Branch of the Patapsco.
 - "Timber Neck" parcel (stretching along future Howard, Paca and Eutaw Streets of westside downtown Baltimore), patented by John Howard.
- 1673/74 – Cecil County formed from northeastern portion of Baltimore County and temporarily includes future Kent County on the upper Eastern Shore of the Chesapeake.
- 1683 – First mention in records for Baltimore County of a "county seat" with a "port of entry" designated by the General Assembly on the Bush River, later called "Old Baltimore".
- 1692 – "Patapsco Hundred" Parish of the established (official) Church of England established for Baltimore County near Colgate Creek on the "Patapsco Neck" peninsula. Later Parish is named as St. Paul's Church or Parish (of the "Anglican" Church) with small log building erected. One of the authorized "Original Thirty" parishes designated in the Province. Oldest church and congregation in greater Baltimore area and one of the oldest in the state.
- 1693 – Gov. Francis Nicholson (1693-1699) orders that a "garrison" or stone blockhouse be built in western reaches of Baltimore County (near modern community of Owings Mills) on what was Capt. Ristean's plantation. Built of stone, twenty by fifty feet, with a fireplace and small embrasures for musketry. The blockhouse is manned by one captain and nine soldiers. Fort Garrison now considered as the oldest colonial fort in Maryland and one of those in America.

18th century

1700s–1740s

- 1704 – Provincial law requires that enough trees be cut down to widen the main roads to twenty feet and that roads be marked. Marking system consists of cutting slashes in tree trunks: one vertical slash on a road leading to a church and three horizontal lines, two close together and one a bit higher on roads leading to a county courthouse.
- 1706 – Port of Baltimore established as an authorized for shipping of tobacco and other products by colonial General Assembly of the Province of Maryland for the upper Chesapeake Bay region at the head of the Patapsco River's Northwest Branch, in "The Basin" (now called "Inner Harbor"), west of inlet and small island at the mouth of the "Jones Falls" stream and "Harford Run" (later covered by Central Avenue in the 19th century) further to the east, both of which flow from the north, and a small stream flowing from the west, later called "Uhler's Run". Situated below the jagged cliff heights (later known after 1788 as "Federal Hill") to the south which overlook the protected harbor which has a twelve-foot depth, enough for ocean-going sailing ships, along a narrow peninsula (old South Baltimore) leading to Whetstone Point. Although only a few ships make anchor the first years by Whetstone Point, it never grows into a town as did deeper anchorages further upstream at future Fells Point and Baltimore Town.
- 1711 – Charles Carroll of Annapolis, (1702–1782), sells 31 acres to Jonathan Hanson who erects a mill, probably the first along the Jones Falls in the vicinity of the intersection with later-day Holliday Street.
- 1715 – General Assembly of Maryland authorizes convening of a Court to serve the growing numbers of residents – farmers, merchants, mechanics, shipbuilders in northeastern Maryland which is now called "Baltimore County", since 1659 and sets four sessions per year for the Court on the first Tuesday of March, June, August and November.
- 1723 – Capt. Robert North takes up residence in the County and is one of the original lot owners. He commands the ship "Content " which he carries in freight this year.
- 1726 – Richard Gist lays out future port community for Edward Fell called "Fell's Prospect", and surveys three dwellings, several tobacco houses, an orchard and a mill – Jonathan Hanson's. Fell builds a store, and the area eventually came to be called "Fell's Point". Edward Fell's brother William, a carpenter arrives from Lancashire, England in 1730 and purchases 100 acres named "Copus Harbor" at "Long Island Point" (vicinity of modern

Lancaster Street, near Philpot Street – east of Jones Falls mouth – today's "Harbor East and new developments at "Harbor Point" in 2013) and builds house and shipyard.

- 1728 – John Cockey (whose brother Thomas purchased property in "Limestone Valley" on the York Road up in central Baltimore County giving his name to the future Cockeysville) purchases land near the Patapsco.
- 1729 – County citizens petition the Colonial Assembly to establish a Town for the ease of exporting tobacco and importing goods from overseas and further expanding the 1706 Port and Harbor. Original site planned and designated was on north shore of the Patapsco's "Middle Branch" (also known as "Ridgeley's Cove") owned by John Moale, a merchant from Devonshire, England who later objected to the site of the new Town, believing that valuable iron ore deposits were located there. So the first commissioners appointed – ("Gentlemen of Consequence": Thomas Tolley, William Hamilton, William Buckner, Dr. George Walker, Richard Gist, Dr. George Buchanan, and William Hammond) instead purchased to the northeast, 60 acres of land of Charles Carroll's "Cole's Harbor/Todd's Range" along the north side of the future "Basin" (Inner Harbor) at the head of the Northwest Branch of the Patapsco River from Daniel (1696–1751), and Charles Carroll of Annapolis, (1702–1782) and county surveyor Philip Jones plans to lay out three streets: Calvert, Forest (later called Charles) which ran north to south, and the east-west Long or later called Market (after the 1760s and still later further as East and West Baltimore) Street. "The Town of Cecilus Calvert, Lord Baltimore" was then founded with the sole resident of the area at the time: John Fleming (whose house stood near southeast corner of Forest (future South Charles) and King George (later East Lombard) Streets).
- 1730 – The "Original Survey" taken on January 12, and 60 one-acre lots were laid out by County Surveyor Philip Jones beginning at an oak tree located then at present site of Forest (South Charles) and future Camden Streets. Three streets laid out and confirmed: Calvert, Forest (Charles), and Long (later Market, then Baltimore Street), with smaller streets/alleys: Hanover, German and Water Streets with "Great Eastern Road" running along the northwest edge connecting Philadelphia to the northeast, with Georgetown, Maryland to the southwest and Annapolis to the south (Provincial capital since 1694). Southwestern village boundary along "Uhler's Run" stream – later Uhler's Alley, – southwest of Forest and King George Streets (later South Charles and West Lombard Sts.). Waterfront shoreline with first wharves located along waterfront of the "Basin" (later Inner Harbor) at German and Water Streets (at approximate site of modern Redwood/Water Streets – three blocks further north of modern (2013) shoreline/"Harborplace"). "Steiger's Meadow" (northeast of town) and "Harrison's Marsh" (east of town) were along the west bank of the Jones Falls stream to the east of new Town. Charles Carroll of Annapolis as owner of the property has first choice and chooses Lot #49 at Calvert Street and the Basin, Philip Jones, the surveyor picks Lot #37 on the Basin at the foot of Charles Street. Sixteen men take up lots that first day, many along the waterfront. Process continues over the next few years with some later forfeiting their claim for not building within eighteen months. Ten years later some lots are still held by the town commissioners – so not exactly a boom town right off.
 - St. Paul's Anglican Parish, of the "established" (colony-supported) Church of England, established earlier in 1692 as one of "Original Thirty" parishes in the colonial Province of Maryland, is moved from a rough church structure near Colgate Creek on the "Patapsco Neck" peninsula (near modern Dundalk and Sea Girt Marine Terminals of the Port of Baltimore, which had been site of old Harbor Field and Baltimore Municipal Airport in the 1930s and 40s), between the lower Patapsco and Back Rivers to the southeast of Baltimore County. Later a year after establishment of the new town, the Vestry (congregation council) of St. Paul's Parish purchases Lot #19 at southeast of Forest Street (later North Charles Street) and large lot extends to the east to St. Paul's Lane (later St. Paul Street/Place/"Preston Gardens") overlooking rugged cliffs above Jones Falls loop to the southwest before turning north again, with south lot boundary line extending to New Church Lane (later East Lexington Street – renamed after American Revolution – later vicinity known as North Charles and East Saratoga Streets). Construction of church as first brick building in town begins the following year.
- 1731 – Baltimore Ironworks Company formed by Daniel Dulany the Elder, Benjamin Tasker, Sr., and members of the Carroll family: Dr. Charles Carroll, Charles Carroll, Esq., and Daniel Carroll who establish iron ore pits, furnace works and export through Baltimore and Fells Point.
- 1732 – "Jones's Town", a tract of ten acres of 20 lots along four streets (also later called "Old Town" by the 19th century) laid out by county surveyor Philip Jones for relative David Jones; established along northeast bank of Jones Falls which flows into the Patapsco's Northwest Branch, east of "The Basin".
- 1739 – First brick building completed in town built for church for "Old St. Paul's Anglican Parish" at Forest (Charles) Street and Fish Lane (later East Saratoga Street) on northern edge of town perched on cliffs to the east overlooking St. Paul's Lane (now Street/Place) and the Jones Falls loop using 600,000 bricks newly manufactured in Baltimore by Charles Wells. Building faces future Lexington Street side to the south and Lower Town. Cemetery laid out around church building. New Church Street laid out south of new church building (later renamed Lexington Street after American Revolution).
- 1740 – Methodist itinerant preacher and missionary George Whitefield (1714–1770), preaches here inspired by evangelical "First Great Awakening" religious revival meetings and Church of England ministers John Wesley (1703–1791), and Charles Wesley (1707–1788).
- 1741 – First brick house built in town for Edward Fortrell from Ireland with free-stone corners, two stories high with peaked roof at northwest corner of Calvert Street and Fish Lane (later East Fayette Street). Later site of large sumptuous James Buchanan mansion/townhouse of 1799 – later sold to noted U.S. Senator Reverdy Johnson, (1796–1876), and ransacked in 1835 during infamous Baltimore bank riot, also future site of southeast corner of 1894–1900 Baltimore City/Clarence M. Mitchell, Jr. Courthouse, opposite future Courthouse/Battle Monument Square.

- 1745 – Merger of "Jones's Town" (later also known as "Old Town") and "Baltimore Town" authorized on September 28 by General Assembly of Maryland enlarges the original settlement on the Patapsco River with an important wooden bridge constructed at Bridge Street (later Gay Street) connecting the two, crossing the Jones Falls stream and the adjacent "Harrison's Marsh" (on land of Thomas Harrison) to the south and "Steiger's Meadow" to the northwest by the "Loop" of the Jones Falls flowing from the north to southwest, then turning northeast, then continuing further south to drain into the Patapsco River's "Basin" at the head of its Northwest Branch, separating the two villages. The merged villages are now according to the Assembly's Act to be called "Baltimore Town".
- 1746 – Town Commissioners hire Capt. Robert North to build fence around former Jones's Town area and then follow two years later with a subscription by townspeople to build post and fence around Baltimore Town and keep in repair, prohibiting raising hogs and geese, with three gates – one at west end of Long Street (later known as Market Street, then Baltimore Street), one at the upper part of Bridge Street over the Jones Falls (Gay Street) and a third smaller portal near the north end of Charles Street near old St. Paul's Anglican Church for foot passengers, completed 1750. Unfortunately, the next few winters are severe and scavengers strip pieces for winter firewood and by 1752, fence remnants are sold off.
- 1747 – Act of the Maryland General Assembly on July 11, authorized the addition of 18 acres that lay to the east of the edge of Town and between the west bank of the Jones Falls, including the then named "Harrison's Marsh" of Thomas Harrison, later memorialized by the naming of Harrison Street in the vicinity, which existed until the 1980s, going north-south between Frederick Street and the stream. First of many future annexations and growth of the Town/City's jurisdiction into the surrounding Baltimore County, prompted by the earlier merger with Jones's Town two years before on the eastern bank of The Falls.
 - Town's first attempt to deal with the flimsy wooden structures of the era and constant threat of conflagration was in July, with provisions regarding fire prevention was added to the Act enlarging the town boundaries. Housekeepers were to be subject to a ten shilling fine if they do not "keep a ladder high enough to extend to the top of the roof of such house or if their chimneys blaze out" was another order of the town commissioners and that if a fire does break out, for all to grab a bucket and come running. At night, two men were to lead the way, one carrying a torch and the other blowing a fog horn.
 - Seven ships have called at the growing Port of Baltimore this year, with fifteen arriving the following year (1748), all bound for London.
- 1749 – First recorded fire in Baltimore Town on March 16, at the home of Greenbury Dorsey, at an unrecorded location. Unfortunately, one man, four children and "one colored girl" were burned to death.

1750s–1790s

- 1750 – First German Reformed Church organized. Second oldest Protestant congregation in town. Invites Rev. John Christian Faber to become their pastor in 1756 and begin building a structure just north of Old St. Paul's Anglican Church (Church of England) on Forest (North Charles) Street, with some Evangelical Lutherans from Germany worshipping with them. Congregation later moves to Front Street at East Baltimore Street by Jones Falls east bank, but structure damaged by flood before completion – help to finish building given by ministers of other local churches – Anglican, Presbyterian and Lutheran. Later landmark building surmounted by tall steeple and prominent "town clock". This First German Reformed congregation later relocates in 1928 to York Road (Maryland Route 45) n Rodgers Forge/Stoneleigh/Anneslie (in northern suburbs) and merges with more prosperous daughter church – St. Stephen's, becoming known as First and St. Stephen's in the Evangelical and Reformed Church – later the United Church of Christ national denomination after its 1957 merger.
 - Additional 25 acres of land added to the Town, north and east of the former Jones' Town, east of the Jones Falls.
 - Beginning of a several years-long controversy with the Town Commissioners ordering on February 6, that citizens provide themselves with ladders high enough to reach the tops of their roofs before the next month of March. By the following year when seeing not all residents were sufficiently supplied because of living in rented quarters, the board ordered the clerk to place advertisements applying the requirement to landlords also.
- 1751 – Subscription and lottery attempt fails to build public market house for Baltimore Town. But successful twelve years later by 1763 at northwest corner of Long Street (later Market, then Baltimore Street) and Bridge Street (later Gay Street). Replaced by later Centre ("Marsh") Market in 1782 at Market (East Baltimore) Street and Market Place/Harrison Street by west bank of Jones Falls, and supplemented by other markets in western precincts (Lexington Market) and eastern precincts (Broadway Market in Fells Point) by 1784.
 - Further sanitary regulations promulgated by the town commissioners: "Whereas several persons permit stinking fish, dead creatures or carrion to lie on their Lotts or in the Streets near their doors which are very offensive Nuisances and contrary to Act of Assembly, the Commissioners therefore Order the Clerk to put up advertisements to inform such Persons that they are to remove them ..."
- 1752 – First Census taken of Baltimore Town lists 30 names of settlers, first census of surrounding Baltimore County enumerates free whites – 11,345, white servants and convicts – 1,501, black and mulatto slaves – 4,143, free blacks and mulattos – 204.

- First historic illustration drawing of the new Town by John Moale (1731–1798, son of man who had objected to original laying out town site on upper Middle Branch/Ridgely's Cove of Patapsco River), showing approximately 25 houses – four of brick, one brick church, two taverns (Payne's and Kaminsky's – on corner of future Grant and Mercer Streets alleys in the block bounded by modern German/Redwood, Light, Water and South Calvert Streets, endures as wooden frame structure with "Dutch" hipped roof, tavern later raised higher on stone foundation which becomes ground/first floor until photographed and razed in 1870), one brewery (Barnetz Brothers), one tobacco inspection warehouse, one wharf, a barber shop and an insurance office. The country-like view, with its few buildings and rolling hills and forests of topography was taken looking north from the overlook on rugged cliffside heights (later named Federal Hill after 1788), to the south of "The Basin" (later called the "Inner Harbor").
- School first



Baltimore Town in 1752. Lithograph. Printed With Ball-Tint. Drawn By A. Hoen & Co. Baltimore, 1851.
Copy From Original Owned By The Maryland Historical Society.

Baltimore in 1752. Engraved in 1851 by William Strickland, from then contemporary sketch by John Moale [jr.], (1731–1798)

organized by Mr. James Gardner at South and Second (later Water) Streets along harbor shoreline.

- 1753 – Influential citizens John Stevenson, Richard Chase, John Moale, William and Nicholas Rogers, John Ridgely, Nicholas Ruxton Gay, William Lux (son of Darby Lux I) and Brian Philpot manage lottery to raise money for building additional public wharf.
- 1754 – Mount Clare Mansion begins construction on "Georgia Plantation" estate, north of Gwynns Falls stream, Middle Branch ("Ridgeley's Cove") of Patapsco River and southwest of growing town along the Georgetown Road (later called Columbia Road, then as Washington Boulevard, also future U.S. Route 1 running from Maine to Florida by the 1920s). Near future city neighborhood of Pigtown (and Washington Village), restored and gentrified community of "Ridgely's Delight" and in future Carroll Park which is purchased by City along with house and restored as historic site in XXXX. Mansion construction of Georgian architectural style built to about 1760 by John Henry Carroll, brother of Charles Carroll (barrister) (1723–1783), and cousin of Charles Carroll of Carrollton (1737–1832), who is most famous as an American patriot as later delegate to Second Continental Congress, last surviving signer of the Declaration of Independence, and honorary layer of "First Stone" for the new Baltimore and Ohio Railroad in 1828.
- 1755 – After occasionally worshipping with Reformed Protestant Germans in Baltimore Town, Lutherans from Germany establish separate Evangelical Lutheran congregation and begin meeting in various homes of members. Later moves in 1758/1762? to Bridge Street (later known as North Gay Street) west of Jones Falls, near future East Saratoga Street with small brick church constructed with bell tower. Later moves one block south on Bridge Street down to corner with New Church Street (later after Revolution known as East Lexington Street) and becomes known as "Zion Church of the City of Baltimore" or also as Old Zion Lutheran Church. After fire damage, building rebuilt without front bell tower in Georgian/Federal style in 1807–08, designed and built by parish members George Rohrbach and Johann Mekenheimer.
- German Reformed congregation invites Rev. John Christian Faber to become pastor and begin building structure just north of first church in town – Old St. Paul's Anglican Church on Forest (Charles) Street, some Evangelical Lutherans participate in worship with Reformed friends.