

= Charles Carroll the Settler =

Charles Carroll (1661 ? 1720) , sometimes called Charles Carroll the Settler to differentiate him from his son and grandson , was a wealthy lawyer and planter in colonial Maryland . Carroll , a Catholic , is best known because his efforts to hold office in the Protestant @-@ dominated colony (of Maryland) resulting in the disfranchisement of the colony 's Catholics .

The second son of Irish Catholic parents , Carroll was educated in France as a lawyer before returning to England , where he pursued the first steps in a legal career . Before that career developed , he secured a position as Attorney General of the young colony of Maryland . Its founder George Calvert and his descendants intended it as a refuge for Catholics .

Carroll supported Charles Calvert , the colony 's Catholic proprietor , in an unsuccessful effort to prevent the Protestant majority from gaining political control over Maryland . Following the overthrow of the Calvert proprietorship and the subsequent exclusion of Catholics from colonial government , Carroll turned his attention to planting , law , business , and various offices in the proprietor 's remnant organization . He was the wealthiest man in the colony by the time of his death . In the last years of his life , Carroll attempted to regain some vestige of political power for Catholics in the colony , but the Protestant colonial assembly and Governor John Hart disfranchised them . His son , Charles Carroll of Annapolis , became a wealthy planter and his grandson , Charles Carroll of Carrollton , also wealthy , was the only Catholic signer of the United States Declaration of Independence .

= = Early life and emigration = =

Carroll was the second of four sons born to Daniel Carroll of Aghagurty and Littermurna (c . 1642 ? 1688) , a Catholic Irishman whose family lost much of their land and wealth in the English Civil War . The exact place of his birth is unclear , though it likely occurred near the small town of Aghagurty that Carroll 's father took as part of his name . Some of the family property near Aghagurty was obtained by a friend , Richard Grace , who made Daniel Carroll the head tenant . This action gave the family a livelihood , but the family continued to have limited means compared to their former status . It is likely that Charles Carroll was fostered by the wealthier Grace , who had no son ; his greater resources could provide for the child 's education .

With Grace 's support , Carroll was able to attend school in France ? at Lille and at the University of Douai ? where he studied the humanities , philosophy , and civil and canon law . By May 1685 , Carroll had moved to London , where he registered to study English common law and was accepted into the Inner Temple , one of the four Inns of Court that are able to call members to the bar and enable them to practice law . According to family tradition , Carroll secured a position as clerk to William Herbert , 1st Marquess of Powis , an Englishman who was one of two Catholic peers in the court of James II .

According to Carroll family tradition , Powis told his new clerk that he believed King James was receiving bad advice related to the religious turmoil in England . Powis was concerned about the consequences for English Catholics . He supposedly spoke on Carroll 's behalf to an associate of his , Charles Calvert , proprietor of the Maryland colony . Charles Calvert 's grandfather , George Calvert , 1st Baron Baltimore , was a former member of Parliament and Secretary of State to James I , whose Catholicism had effectively ended his political career . Intense lobbying by George Calvert had led to the granting of a hereditary charter to the Calvert family . The Maryland colony was established in the 1630s on land granted by this charter . It was intended as a haven for English Catholics and other religious minorities . Powis may have encouraged Carroll to emigrate to Maryland with the hope that the younger man 's career would come to greater fulfillment in a place with less religious conflict than England at the time .

Carroll received a commission from Calvert as the colony 's Attorney General on July 18 , 1688 , and arrived in the colony in October 1688 . En route , Carroll changed his family motto from *In fide et in bello forte* (strong in faith and war) to *Ubi cumque cum libertate* (anywhere so long as there be freedom) . Soon after he left , the Protestant William of Orange invaded England , James II fled ,

and Parliament ? which had been leery of James ' Catholicism ? recognized William and his wife Mary as the new King and Queen two weeks after Carroll 's arrival in Maryland . This event , known as the Glorious Revolution , had profound implications for the future of the Maryland colony and for Carroll .

= = Career and rise to wealth in Maryland = =

Soon after his arrival in Maryland , Carroll presented his commission to the colony 's council and was recognized as the new Attorney General of the colony . He arrived in a place already riven by religious and class differences . Carroll and nearly the entire governing structure of the colony , with the exception of the lower house of the proprietary assembly , were appointed by Calvert . Most of the appointees were Catholic and wealthy , whereas the majority of the population and the lower house of the assembly were Protestant and less wealthy . Carroll arrived in Maryland just as long @-@ standing economic , religious , and political tensions between the poorer Protestant majority and the wealthier and more powerful Catholic minority were reaching a head .

By the late 17th century , Maryland 's economy was suffering from the effects of price fluctuations on the world market of its main cash crop , tobacco . Often in those years , the price on world markets was barely above the cost of production , leaving planters with little to show for their efforts . This affected small Protestant planters disproportionately , as many of the larger Catholic landowners had diversified economically . This growing socioeconomic inequality exacerbated underlying religious tensions . Furthermore , the new Governor , William Joseph , who arrived in the colony just before Carroll , immediately entered into an adversarial relationship with the Protestant @-@ dominated lower house of the assembly . Into this powder keg came the news that England 's Glorious Revolution had taken place ; the Catholic King James II had been deposed and replaced with the Protestant William of Orange . In an attempt to maintain control in the colony , Governor Joseph quickly canceled the session of the colonial assembly scheduled for April 1689 .

In response to this cancellation and rumors of an anti @-@ Protestant alliance between Catholics and Native Americans , Protestant settlers formed an association to defend themselves . In July 1689 , they marched on the colonial capital , St. Mary 's City . Led by John Coode , the Protestant associators were quickly able to capture St. Mary 's and the other major towns of the colony . The Governor and a number of other Calvert allies fled to Virginia . Charles Calvert turned for relief to the Lords of Trade and eventually to the Privy Council , but these groups sided with the Protestants and took away the power of the Calvert family to govern the colony . Soon thereafter , the new leaders of the colony barred Catholics from holding office , bearing arms , or serving on juries .

During the rebellion , Carroll was recovering from the " hard seasoning " often experienced by immigrants whose bodies were acclimatizing to local conditions . Perhaps due to illness , he chose not to flee the colony . Instead , Carroll offered support and legal advice to Calvert and became an outspoken critic of the Protestant government . He was jailed twice for insulting the new colonial leaders , including Governor Lionel Copley , who accused Carroll of , " uttering several mutinous and seditious speeches " . Losing his position in the colonial government and the £ 50 annual salary it entailed was a blow to Carroll . His support for Calvert earned him various positions in the private Calvert family organization , which would benefit him throughout his life .

= = = Marriage = = =

Carroll improved his fortunes through a judicious marriage . In November 1689 , he wed Martha Ridgely Underwood , a widow whose two former husbands had left her a small fortune . Carroll inherited a portion of this fortune after Martha 's death in 1690 in childbirth . The child , named Anthony in honor of Carroll 's brother , also died . Restricted in his law practice by the new Protestant government , Carroll used the inheritance to begin importing goods to the colony . He also purchased a store in the town of Annapolis .

In February 1693 or 1694 , Carroll remarried , this time to the 15 @-@ year @-@ old daughter of Colonel Henry Darnall , Charles Calvert 's chief agent in the colony . The marriage to Mary Darnall

secured Carroll a tract of land in Prince George 's County , a position in the colony 's land office with a £ 100 annual salary , and a lifelong alliance with Henry Darnall . This tract of land was the first part of what would become a vast empire of nearly 50 @,@ 000 acres (20 @,@ 000 ha) by the time of Carroll 's death , worth approximately £ 20 @,@ 000 . Some of these lands were worked by the 112 slaves he acquired during his lifetime . This was a very large number of slaves for a Maryland planter in the early colonial period . After 1706 , Carroll and his family resided on two properties , a town house built in the new colonial capital of Annapolis and the plantation called Dougheregan in modern @-@ day Howard County .

= = = Children = = =

As successful as Carroll was in business , however , he and his wife experienced many personal losses throughout this period . Of the ten children born to Charles and Mary Carroll , five died within a year of their birth . Henry , their eldest son , died the year before his father in 1719 , at the age of 21 or 22 . Only the third child , named Charles and later known as Charles Carroll of Annapolis , and their next son Daniel would marry and have children of their own .

Henry Darnall died in 1711 . Carroll took over Darnall 's positions as agent and receiver general for the Calvert family in the colony , both posts with significant additional salaries . Among the many uses to which he put this money was lending . After 1713 , he became the largest mortgage lender in the colony , and made a number of large personal loans to other planters . Carroll continued to practice law , making a small income from cases argued in the two courts where Catholics were still allowed to practice law , the chancery and prerogative courts . His speculation in mercantile enterprises also continued . Together , these made Carroll the wealthiest man in the colony by 1715 , and its most prominent Catholic .

= = Final attempt at political power and death = =

In 1715 , political power over the Maryland colony was restored to the Calvert family after the conversion of Benedict Calvert to Protestantism . Emboldened by this turn of events , and with support from a number of prominent Maryland Catholic families , Carroll attempted to gain government office in the state . This would have been a profound departure from the policy of excluding Catholics from government , which had existed since the Protestant takeover in 1689 . Carroll 's chief antagonist in this effort was the Governor , John Hart . In 1716 , Hart discovered that Carroll was planning to travel to England to lobby Calvert 's officials for restoration of office @-@ holding rights for Catholics , something Hart vehemently opposed . Hart described Carroll as :

" a professed Papist , and the first fomentor of our late Disturbances , who having acquired a large estate in the Province by the offices he formerly employed , and his practice in Law ... must needs add the Ambition of Rule to his former Felicity " .

Carroll travelled to England to press his case , although Hart later claimed that he had been promised no such lobbying would take place . Carroll convinced the proprietor 's officials to appoint him as the proprietor 's chief agent in the colony . He was further appointed to the positions of receiver general , escheator , and naval officer . These positions together effectively gave Carroll the power to oversee all money in the colony that was collected by the government or by Calvert 's private organization .

Upon Carroll 's return to Maryland , Hart was incensed both at the threat to his own power and the idea of a Catholic officeholder in the colony . Hart demanded that Carroll take the oath of allegiance , which he was willing to do , and the oath of abjuration confirming the Protestant succession to the English throne , which Carroll was not willing to do . Carroll began to act in the capacity authorized by the proprietor 's commission , and Hart turned to the upper house of the colonial legislature for relief . Rejecting Carroll 's arguments in support of his right to hold government offices , the assembly resisted his attempts to exercise the commission and , near the end of 1716 , passed a series of laws confirming and restricting the oath requirements for officeholders , which were anti @-@ Catholic by intent . Carroll 's case may have been undermined when he came to the defense

of his nephew , who had raised a toast to the Catholic James Stuart . Stuart had tried to take the British throne during a rebellion in 1715 and was extremely unpopular with Protestants in the colony . The proprietor , whose position had been so recently restored and who did not want to risk the loss of the colony , confirmed the decision of the assembly . Carroll 's commission was formally revoked on February 20 , 1717 . According to a later account Hart gave to the assembly , Carroll began a campaign to undermine the Governor . There is no evidence that Hart was accurate , but the assembly passed stricter anti Catholic laws in 1718 , including disfranchisement , stripping Catholic males of the right to vote .

Carroll died only two years later , with his wealth intact but having failed to regain any political rights for Catholics in Maryland . Carroll 's eldest son Henry had died a year before ; the family fortune and burden of heading a Catholic family in Protestant dominated Maryland were passed on to his younger sons Charles and Daniel .

Carroll 's descendants continued to play a prominent role in the colony . His son Charles , known as Charles Carroll of Annapolis , maintained and expanded the family fortune . His grandson , Charles Carroll of Carrollton , achieved the restoration of political rights his grandfather had desired . He became the only Catholic to sign the Declaration of Independence .