

Charles Carroll's Return to Maryland

In 1748, at the age of twelve, Charles Carroll was sent to study at an English Jesuit College in St. Omer, France. After years of classical studies, he moved to London where he studied law. In 1765, Charles Carroll returned to Maryland. The following announcement appears in the *Maryland Gazette*.

“ANNAPOLIS, February 14

...Tuesday last arrived at his Father's House in Town, CHARLES CARROLL, junr. Esqr. (latelly from *London*, by Way of *Virginia*) after about Sixteen Years Absence from his Native Country at his Studies and on his Travels.”

On his return to Maryland in 1765, Charles Carrol was given a 10,000-acre land tract called Carrollton, located in Frederick County. Although he would never live there, Carroll added the word “Carrollton” to his signature to distinguish himself from other Charles Carrolls. In 1768, he married his cousin, Mary “Molly” Darnall and began major improvements to his family urban home and gardens in Annapolis. They had seven children, only three of whom lived to adulthood. The Carrolls were busy and gracious hosts to such dignitaries and governmental leaders as George Washington and the Marquis de Lafayette. The house and grounds was the scene for many social “humble feasts” and after-the races dinners. Politics kept the family busy through the Revolutionary War and in 1783, the Annapolis house and grounds was the site of the Official State Celebration for the Peace and Independence. The *Maryland Gazette* wrote the following of the affair.

“Elegant and plentiful dinner provided for the celebration of Peace on Carroll's Green;...sheep, calves, and whole ox were roasted, liquor in proportion ... A convenient, extensive Building was erected sufficient for the Accommodations of many Hundreds.”

Adapted from *Three Generations of Carrolls*, Charles Carroll House of Annapolis.