

◆ WELCOME TO ◆



◆ CARROLLTON ◆
◆ MANOR ◆

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elcome to **CARROLLTON MANOR**, one of the homes of Charles Carroll, American Revolutionary statesman and a signer of the Declaration of Independence.

Charles Carroll of Carrollton was born in Annapolis, September 1737, the only child of Elizabeth Brooke and Charles Carroll of Annapolis. He was educated in France and England.

While in England, Charles' parents encouraged him to find a wife whose position and fortune would be compatible to that of his own. He was unsuccessful, however, and wrote to his father from London that very few sufficiently wealthy young ladies would consider moving from English society to the American wilderness.

When Charles returned to America in 1765, his father gave him Carrollton Manor as a gift and he adopted the name Charles Carroll of Carrollton to distinguish him from his father and other Charles Carrolls. That he expected to settle on Carrollton Manor is shown by the consignment of two thoroughbred mares and furniture imported from London. For years, traces remained of the race course he laid out with the apparent intention of developing the estate in a manner befitting his position as a man of great wealth.

Sadly, however, Charles' plans were disrupted. His first Maryland sweetheart, Rachael Cooke, died just before a wedding date in 1766. This brought connotations of gloom to Carrollton Manor where, apparently, they had planned to live.

Grief stricken, Charles was consoled by a distant cousin, Mary Darnell. They fell in love and were married in 1768.



◆ They chose to make their principle residence in Annapolis with its lively social and political life, with occasional visits to Carrollton Manor. After Mary's early death, following childbirth, Charles never remarried.

After retiring from public life about 1800, Charles managed his many properties and became interested in railroad development. Perhaps it was during this era that Charles spent more of his time at Carrollton Manor, on trips to "western" Maryland to oversee his vast estate (10,000 - 15,000 acres), and to, perhaps, mourn his lost loves.

About 1820, Mariana Caton, a beloved granddaughter of Charles Carroll, married Robert Patterson, and they moved to Carrollton Manor. They made extensive repairs to the old house. Before the work was finished, however, cholera broke out, and Mr. Patterson left for Baltimore where he died a few days later. After his death, the wide porches that had been planned to extend around the house were never finished. Finally, a small porch was built before the door of the main entrance. Following the short tenure of the Pattersons, no other direct descendants of Charles Carroll ever occupied Carrollton Manor.

Charles Carroll outlived all other signers of the Declaration of Independence. At his death in 1832, he was reputedly the wealthiest man in the United States.

◆ The property was purchased by Eastalco Aluminum Company in the late 1960's. For many years, the house was residence to various management employees of Eastalco. Eastalco still farms approximately 1,200 acres of the surrounding land. Recently, many renovations have been made and current plans are to use the house for a conference/training center.



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