

## St. Clement's Island Museum

38370 Point Breeze Road  
Colton's Point, Maryland 20626  
301-769-2222

[www.stmarysmd.com/recreate/museums](http://www.stmarysmd.com/recreate/museums)



### Museum Hours:

March 25 through September 30

Weekdays: 9 am to 5 pm

Weekends: 12 noon to 5 pm

October 1 through March 24

Wednesday through Sunday

12 noon to 4 pm



### Directions:

The Museum is located on the shore of the Potomac River in beautiful St. Mary's County.

From the Washington Capital Beltway take exit 7a to Route 5 south - Waldorf to Mechanicsville. Continue on Route 5 south to Route 242 south to the end at Colton's Point.

From Annapolis southbound US 301 take Route 5 south to Route 242 south to the end at Colton's Point.

From Richmond northbound US 301 across the Potomac River Bridge to Route 234 east to Route 242 south to the end at Colton's Point.



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MARYLAND

DIVISION OF TOURISM

St. Mary's County Board of Commissioners



## St. Clement's Island

"Birthplace of Maryland"

1634



### Discover

*Maryland's earliest beginning.*

### Learn

*of bravery, courage, and adventure.*

### Experience

*a past time and place.*

## ST. MARY'S COUNTY MARYLAND

Thank you to all our generous sponsors!

# St. Clement's Island

## Birthplace of Maryland

Maryland's roots extend far back into English history. The reign of King Henry VIII and his desire to produce a male heir led to the persecution and oppression of Catholics. This was the driving force behind the English emigration to Maryland in the 17th century.

An adventurous group of colonists left England on two small ships, *The Ark* and *The Dove*, November 23, 1633, the feast day of St. Clement, fourth Pope and patron saint of mariners.

After a four-month journey across the wintry seas of the Atlantic Ocean, they sailed up the Chesapeake Bay and northward to the Potomac River, landing on a small island they named for St. Clement. It was here, on March 25, 1634, that they "took possession" of the land and celebrated a Roman Catholic Mass of thanksgiving, the first in the English-speaking colonies.

This was the beginning of the Maryland colony. Founded on the ideals of religious toleration and separation of church and state, this infant colony initiated these basic freedoms that would become the cornerstones of our American Constitution.

On the occasion of Maryland's 300th birthday in 1934, a 40-foot memorial was erected on St. Clement's Island to stand as a tribute to these American ideals and to the first brave Marylanders who risked their lives to bring them to the New World.



# St. Clement's Island Museum

The Museum was founded in 1975 by local citizens and the 7th District Optimist Club to preserve, interpret and exhibit the history of St. Clement's Island. The Museum is currently managed by the Museum Division of St. Mary's County Department of Recreation and Parks and is nationally accredited by the American Association of Museums.



The Museum offers:

- Self-guided and pre-arranged guided tours
- Student tours and outreach programs
- Crab Claw Gift Shop and Museum Store
- Pier and picnic facilities
- Little Red Schoolhouse c.1820



## Water Taxi Service to St. Clement's Island

Memorial Day through October (*weather permitting*)  
Please call 301-769-2222 for more information.

## Maryland Begins Here!

St. Clement's Island is a Maryland State park managed by the Maryland Department of Natural Resources. Visitors are invited to enjoy its natural beauty, waterfowl, pier and picnic facilities, hiking trails, and educational exhibit panels.

# Annual Events



## Maryland Day

March 25 - Celebrate Maryland's birthday with a commemorative wreath-laying ceremony, guest speakers, and more!



## Tide of Tolerance

One-act Play/Outdoor Drama  
The Lord Proprietor's Players perform the historical account of Maryland's first landing on St. Clement's Island in 1634. Call for performance dates.



## Potomac Jazz and Seafood Festival



Second Saturday of July - Enjoy an electric mix of jazz artists and the best of Southern Maryland seafood while relaxing on

the Museum lawn overlooking historic St. Clement's Island and scenic Potomac River.

## Blessing of the Fleet

Two day event the first weekend of October - Since 1968 this event has been sponsored by the Optimist Club of the Seventh District to bring to the forefront the significance of St. Clement's Island, the tradition and culture of the Potomac River and St. Mary's County. Food, parades, entertainment, fireworks, crafts, Mass and boat blessing, children's games and more!

