

- “The office of Sheriff is one of the most familiar and most useful to be found in the history of English institutions. With the single exception of kingship, no secular dignity now known to English-speaking people is older.” W. A. Morris, *The Medieval English Sheriff to 1300*, p. 1 (Manchester University Press, 1927).
- Lord Coke, a famous English legal scholar, traced the office back to the Romans. Under Roman law, sheriffs, shires, and counties existed and the office was referred as the office of the consul, which the Romans called ***consulatum***. W.H. Watson, *A Practical Treatise on the Office of Sheriff*, ch. 1, § 1, p. 1 (2d ed 1994).

Translations of the Book of Daniel, Chapters 3:2; 3:3, recount the author’s recorded dreams upon his exile to the Province of Babylon in 598/597 B.C., and those translated writings include reference to “sheriffs” of the outlying provinces, who accompanied Nebuchadnezzar to a dedication ceremony in Babylon. *New World Translation of the Holy Scriptures*, p. 1135 (Revised 1984); *King James Bible (Old Testament*

- Under the Parliamentary system of common-law England, the Office of Sheriff was reposed with no such stature, as English statutes *could restrict and even do away with the Office*, because it enjoyed no constitutional sanction, which

essentially acted to suspend and preserve the Sheriff's common-law powers and duties.

- Thus, as the office attained the constitutional imperative in the United States, the majority of states have held that the powers and duties of the office may not be abridged. *Beasley v Ridout*, 94 Md 641, 52 A 61, 63 (1902), citing *Murfree*, supra, See also *Murphy v Yates* 276 Md 475, 491; 348 A2d 837, 846 (Md 1975), citing *Allor v Bd of Auditors of Wayne County*, 43 Mich 76, 101, 102-03; 4 NW 492 (1880).