reliability of historic maps as source documents used in research.

BACKGROUND

Augustine Herrman's 1673 map of the Chesapeake Bay is regarded as the most accurate map of any of the Middle Atlantic colonies published in the seventeenth century. [Morrison, Papenfuse, et al.] It succeeds John Smith's map as the prototype for subsequent Chesapeake Bay area cartography, and remains influential until superceded by the Hoxton chart of 1735 and the Fry and Jefferson map of 1753.

John Smith's maps of the Virginia colony were the only major maps showing detail of the Chesapeake Bay region prior to the Herrman 1673 map. Although John Smith is credited as being one of the first explorers of the region, his maps did not contain enough geographical information beyond the immediate waters of the Chesapeake Bay. Smith's map lacked information on the coastal area of what is now known as the "Del-Mar-Va" peninsula and the extent of the Maryland colony.

Cecil Calvert, second Lord Baltimore and an early promoter of colonization of Maryland, had attempted to secure a map of the colony better than those made by