

in general to look after all manors, forests, lands, etc. Until the appointment of an Examiner General, 1685, he signed the certificates, and in 1658 his signature began to appear on all grants. In 1671 he was instructed to hold courts of inquiry once a year in each county for examining titles by which land was held, and for ascertaining whether anyone possessed more land than was his due, and what rent ought to be paid; all information thus gained he was to enter in a book, make two copies of the same, send one to the Proprietor and the other to the Receiver General.¹¹

The Secretary, in 1670, was given more explicit directions: to prove all rights to land; to inquire after, properly describe, and record all escheats; to enter clearly on record all the proprietary manors and reserves; to prepare a rentroll, diligently to search all concealments of any of the Proprietor's rents, and give notice of any such concealments to the Proprietor and the Governor; to give special attention to procuring the payment of alienation fines, and to have a list of alienations recorded.¹²

Another new office was created sometime between 1671 and 1676 when the Proprietor appointed two Receivers General of his rents and other dues, and authorized them to appoint deputies.¹³

Procedure in obtaining a grant of land in the early years of the colony, then, went something like this. Persons entitled to land came to the Secretary's office to record their entry into the province and consequent right to land under the various Conditions of Plantation. At the same time or perhaps later they demanded warrants of survey—issued by the Governor or the Secretary under his direction—for the corresponding quantities of land. Their claims, once on record, stood to their credit until they chose to use them. Warrants were signed by the Governor and directed to the Surveyor General, who returned certificates of the surveys, under his signature, to the Secretary's office after which, no objection appearing, patents or grants were issued under the great seal signed by the Governor and endorsed by the Secretary and the Surveyor General. The title was then complete and the rights on which it was founded were satisfied and cancelled.¹⁴

¹¹ *Archives of Maryland*, V, 94 ff.; Newton D. Mereness, *Maryland as a Proprietary Province*, New York, 1901, p. 59.

¹² *Arch. Md.*, V, 73 ff.; Kilty, p. 59.

¹³ *Arch. Md.*, XV, 119 ff.; Kilty, p. 59

¹⁴ *Ibid.*, p. 66.