

It is perceived that although land affairs at this period were attended to somewhat confusedly with all other kinds of business in the only office then existing, a framework of the Land Office seems to be already in existence. Kilty is of the opinion that previous to 1680 explicit instructions for the proceedings of the Land Office, and for that purpose only, had not been prescribed—partly because up to that time the government had been generally in the hands of the Proprietor's near relations and partly because up to that time no office had been set aside especially for land. The only clue to such a previous system would seem to lie in a certain "Book of Instructions", no longer in existence, but mentioned in the list of books of records turned over to John Llewellyn in 1680.¹⁵ At any rate, Charles, the third Lord Baltimore, is identified with the separate and formal establishment of a Land Office when, in 1680, he for the first time erected an office by that name and gave the charge of it to John Llewellyn with the denomination of Register. As such, Llewellyn was authorized to take into his care all the "records transcripts, bookes papers and memorandums", to take the probate of rights for land, to issue and sign warrants, and upon return of certificates to draw up patents.¹⁶ The Register, it is seen, now has the powers formerly reserved for the Governor or the Secretary.

Four years after this, Charles, about to make a second visit to England and determined apparently to put land matters on an efficient and dependable basis before leaving, committed the sole management of land affairs to a select council consisting of four members and termed "the land council" or more formally "his Lordships Council for lands specially appointed." At the same time he made out a set of instructions intended to cover all operations of the land office, and from this time the complete and distinct organization of this agency takes its date.¹⁷ The new council was authorized to hear and determine all matters relating to land that were brought before it. Two of its members, the Secretaries of the province, were authorized to issue land warrants, and one of the Secretaries with one of the other members to sign, all grants. At this point then, the land business had become thoroughly organized in what was chiefly a private office of the Lord Proprietor, which office held jurisdiction over the keeping of the records, over every-

¹⁵ *Warrants*, Liber 3, first page; see p. 77.

¹⁶ *Ibid.*, p. 24.

¹⁷ Kilty, p. 109.