

the proprietor relating thereto."²⁰ Here it is to be observed that the Judge takes over, along with his own title, that of Register. Under the Judges of the Land Office the chief officials were the Surveyor Generals (before the close of the 17th century it had become customary to appoint a Surveyor General for each shore) and the Examiner General. About the only duties of these officers were the appointment of a Deputy Surveyor in each county and the transmission of instructions and warrants to and from these deputies. After 1764 two Judges were appointed for the Land Office and this practice continued until the Revolution.²¹

Such then, was the general organization of land administration in Maryland up to the time of the Revolution. The most striking feature of the development—its constant amplification and diversification— from the small nucleus of the "Governor and Commissioners" to a large office with a number of different departments was to be expected in a new and important agency growing up in a new and important country.

RECORDS IMPLIED IN THE TITLE "COLONIAL LAND OFFICE RECORDS"

Colonial Land Office records are those emanating from the Lord Proprietor's Land Office after its inception in 1680 and kept previous to that in the custody of the authorized director of land affairs. With the exception of assignments they do not witness transactions between two land-holders as conveyances do. They are agreements between an individual and the Lord Proprietor pertaining to initial granting or leasing of land or they are records of rent payments to the Proprietor on his lands. Once an individual received title to land from the Proprietor further transfers (unless the land reverted to the Proprietor through escheat) were no longer recorded in the Land Office, but in either the County Courts or the Provincial Court. Thus a great body of what might at first thought be considered colonial Land Office records—the County and Provincial Court deeds before 1776—does not fall within the scope of this

²⁰ Kilty, p. 269.

²¹ Gould, p. 14.