

study. Further, colonial Land Office records discussed here refer only to those in the present custody of the Land Office.<sup>22</sup>

Colonial Land Office records are made up of five different series, according to their present arrangement in the Land Office—*Patents, Warrants, Proprietary Leases, Rent Rolls* and *Debt Books*. The first two series, the *Patents* and *Warrants*, contain not only patents and warrants but also certificates, caveats, proofs of rights, assignments, proclamations of Lord Baltimore, conditions of plantation and all manner of records pertaining to granting of land. These two series actually represent the main body of Land Office records. This is evident from the fact that the various lists of land records made and reported at different times during the colonial period consist of the books of these two series with the Provincial Court land records sometimes included.<sup>23</sup> The reason, of course, that the two series, the *Rent Rolls* and *Debt Books*, do not have the stature of the *Patents* and *Warrants* series is that they were kept as private account books for collecting rent and do not have anything to do with granting or transferring title of land. Proprietary leases fall somewhere between the first group and the second in significance as land records. They record title of a secondary, temporary sort.

### THE CHARTER AND CONDITIONS OF PLANTATION

To begin at the very beginning it is necessary to mention the antecedent of all Maryland land records, the charter granting Maryland to Lord Baltimore. The charter granting the territory comprising Maryland had originally been drawn up by George Lord Baltimore, but he dying before the patent was completed, the grant was made on June 20, 1632 to his son Cecilius. By the terms of the charter the territory was to be held in free and common socage from the king of England with a nominal annual rent of two Indian arrows and one-fifth of all gold and silver found. It was made both

<sup>22</sup> Although these records in the present Land Office constitute a complete, definitive body of colonial Land Office records, scattered additional records are to be found at the Maryland Hall of Records, the Maryland Historical Society, in the Johns Hopkins University Papers and in county records. These consist entirely of papers and records of the more private or secondary sort, pertaining to the proprietor's revenue such as duplicates of debt books and rent rolls, lists of manor rents, accounts, alienation lists, etc.

<sup>23</sup> cf. *Arch. Md.*, XX, 192-200; *Provincial Court Land Records*, Liber H. D., pp. 118-124.