

aging six months. When the survey had been completed it was signed by the Surveyor General who returned it to the Secretary's office. A certificate of survey dated Dec. 4, 1639 in Liber 1 of *Patents* reads:

Laid out for Mr. William Lewis one neck of land lying upon the northern side of St. Inigoes Creek and bounding on the west with St. Andrew's Creek; on the east with the freehold of St. Maries Hill, and on the north with the town land of Robert Clerk as it is distinguished by marked trees containing thirty acres or thereabouts.

JOHN LEWGEE (Surveyor)

When the foregoing records had all been completed and if no objections were forthcoming the patent itself was granted under the great seal, signed by the Governor and endorsed by the Secretary and the Surveyor General. The patent or grant³² was of the nature of a deed, and gave the consideration for which the grant was made, the description of the grant as found in the certificate of survey and the conditions of tenure.³³ The following is an example of a patent:

Caecilius &c: To all persons to whom these presents shall come greeting in our Lord God Everlasting. Know yee that we for and inconsideration that George Peake of this province planter, hath due unto him Three hundred Acres of Land for the transportation of Several persons into this Province here to inhabit as appears upon record. And upon such conditions and terms as are Expressed in our conditions of plantation of our Province of Maryland under our greater Seal at Armes bearing date at London the Second day of July in the Year of our Lord God One Thousand Six hundred forty nine with such alteration as in them is made by our declaration bearing date the twenty Sixth day of August One Thousand Six hundred fifty one and remaining upon record in our sd Province of Maryland Do hereby grant unto him the sd George Peake a Parcell of Land (called Peake Marsh) lying in Talbotts County on the North side of Choptanck River. . . . To have and to hold the same unto him the said George Peake his heirs and assigns forever To be holden of us and our heirs, as of our Mannor of Baltimore in free and common Soccage by fealty only for all manner of Services Yeilding and Paying therefore yearly unto us and our heirs at our receipt at Saint Maries at the two most

³² These two terms are used interchangeably though the latter usually refers to what is granted and the former to the record of it.

³³ Mereness, p. 51.