

usuall feasts in the year. . . . by even and equall Portions the Rent of Six Shillings Sterling. . . . or the full value thereof in such comodities as we. . . . shall accept in discharge thereof . . . Given at Saint Maries under our great Seal of our sd Province of Maryland the Six and twentieth day of September in the three and thirtieth Year of our dominion over our sd Province of Maryland Annoq Domi One Thousand Six hundred Sixty three Wittness our dear Son and heir Charles Calvert Esq our Lieut. Generall of our sd Province of Maryland.³⁴

The foregoing represent the chief basic types of land records. There are, however, many others that developed out of these primary ones or are variations of them. One of the early developments is the assignment or transfer of rights, warrants, certificates and even of patents from one person to another. For a while—before the law put a stop to it—patents were transferred conveying complete title in land from one person to another without a deed indented or the other ordinary formalities. The reverse side of the patent was simply endorsed and sometimes the same patent might be endorsed with several successive assignments.³⁵ Warrants and certificates were regularly assigned by making and acknowledging the assignment before the Secretary and having him enter it on records. The assignments of rights to land were so numerous as to lead Kilty to the belief that there must have been books subsidiary to those of general record for the purpose of entering the rights in a short form in succession as they were exhibited.³⁶ If it is borne in mind that with the exception of tobacco, land rights constituted almost the only medium of exchange among the early colonists, this practice of assignment is the more readily understandable.

Two main types of warrants have already been observed but there are three or four other important types that should be mentioned, namely, warrants of resurvey and three variations thereof—escheat, proclamation, and surplus warrants. Warrants of resurvey were the natural outgrowth of incorrect original surveys and the desire for precise information as to the boundaries of one's land. All during the proprietary period these warrants were not generally granted as a matter of right and were preceded by petitions stating the object of the application for resurvey. This fact, plus the great number of resurvey warrants upon the records, gives an indication of their

³⁴ *Patents*, Liber 8, p. 72.

³⁵ Kilty, p. 211.

³⁶ *Ibid.*, pp. 77-8.