

consist entirely of leases of lands in Baltimore County and the third volume contains leases from Anne Arundel, Cecil, Kent, Queen Anne's, Dorchester, St. Mary's, Charles, Somerset, Worcester, and Prince George's counties. Entries of leases are alphabetical by name of lease-holder except in the third volume where this order is not always maintained. Dates of the leases range from 1707 to 1771, with the majority falling in the forties and fifties.

At one time there were also plats to the Proprietor's manors. Governor Sharpe in a letter to Lord Baltimore in 1757 speaks of having "entered in a Book Platts of most of your Ldps Mannours in the different parts of the Province".⁵⁰ That book may exist somewhere among the Calvert family papers. The Land Office has about a dozen individual manor plats in its custody at the present time.

RENT ROLLS AND DEBT BOOKS SERIES

The two remaining series of Land Office records, the *Rent Rolls* and *Debt Books* are considerably different from the records of the *Patents* and *Warrants* series. In a sense they are just the Lord Proprietor's account books and not Land Office records at all. In fact the dispute over the public or private nature of land records during the royal period definitely established the rent rolls and debt books as private records. However, since all land records were looked upon as more or less private prior to this dispute and the Land Office considered a private matter by the Proprietor himself, it is plain that before the royal period rent rolls and debt books were considered Land Office records. Furthermore, while the Proprietor's personal hold on land affairs was much weakened during the royal period it was immediately revived when his proprietary rights were restored in 1715. Forceful efficiency measures on his part tended to bring land and revenue matters back under the old single rein, as witness the fact that in 1760 the Proprietor "proposed that part of that Office [the Land Office] shall be a Repository for all the Farm Contracts from the Rent Roll Keepers . . . And in that Office to be Deposited the Leases of all Mannour Lands & of all other Rights payable to the Ld Proprietor . . ." ⁵¹ Likewise in 1770-1771 we find the question of the private or public nature of

⁵⁰ *Arch. Md.*, VI, 522.

⁵¹ *Ibid.*, IX, 403.