

manor or the right to take up land from the proprietor is unclear. Probably the former was intended at first, but whatever the understanding at the time, in the end the proprietor, not the investor, gave those who came as servants the land they had earned by their labors.³³

Who found these conditions acceptable in return for the risk of sailing to an unknown land across 3,000 miles of ocean? We know nothing of the backgrounds of the servants who traveled on the *Ark* except what can be inferred from their histories after their arrival in Maryland. Sixty-four out of a likely one hundred and three have been identified.³⁴ Only one was known to be a woman, although there were certainly a few more. We know absolutely nothing about twenty-two of the men beyond their names. They probably died, as many immigrants did in the seventeenth-century Chesapeake, within a year of their arrival. The forty-two people who lived longer have left traces behind them in the colony's records. But many did not live much longer and soon disappear from view.

The forty-two people who are known show a broad range of social origins similar to those of later immigrant servants. At least six men probably came from families of yeoman farmers or tradesmen. Four more had special skills. One was a bricklayer, two were carpenters, and one was a surveyor. Such men in England were defined as "the middling sort." They were below the gentry but not among the very poor, who often needed charity. To this number should probably be added nine others who apparently were literate. All, like the gentlemen adventurers, were probably younger sons whose fathers could not provide them with much of an inheritance. The remaining twenty-three servants doubt-