

Clearly Lord Baltimore's original plan for organizing settlers on manors simply did not work where so much land was available and people were so few. He needed to encourage poor men as well as rich to take up land, and hence pay the quit rents that provided him with a return. For those adventurous men and women who departed on the *Ark* that day of gentle winds in November 1633, there was indeed a real prospect of good fortune, if they managed not to die too soon.⁴³

Preparations for the Voyage

How many people actually went to Maryland? Lord Baltimore once spoke of 300 settlers, but this is certainly an exaggeration. On another occasion he stated that his ships had carried about 200 people, which, if the crews are included, seems plausible. One hundred and twenty-eight unnamed people took the oath of allegiance to the king as the ships left Gravesend, just below London. Since most English Catholics were willing to take this oath, all but the three Jesuits may have done so. The *Ark* had a crew of forty and the *Dove* a crew of seven. In all by this count, 178 people sailed. But the number rises to 195 if the Catholic gentlemen adventurers avoided taking the oath. Of these 195 passengers and crew the intended colonists would have numbered 148.⁴⁴ The number of would-be settlers, then, falls between about 130 and 150.

Transporting approximately one hundred and fifty colonists with equipment and supplies for one year took considerable planning. Lord Baltimore chartered the *Ark*, a very large ship for the time, one built both to be a merchant ship and for use by the royal navy if needed in