

own expense in the first expedition five able men with equipment for a year could obtain a grant of 2,000 acres in return for a small annual quit rent. The estimated cost was £100—£20 per man—which brought the price of the land to 1 shilling per acre. In parts of England at this time the value of farm land—improved, to be sure, not wilderness—was nearly fifty times as much.⁵

To these large investors Lord Baltimore offered additional attractions. The 2,000-acre parcels were to be granted as manors “with all such royalties and priviledges, as are usually belonging to Mannors in England.”⁶ The investor-leader was to be the lord of the manor, with rights to hold courts baron and courts leet for settlement of disputes and conservation of the manorial peace. The Maryland charter, written by the first Lord Baltimore, explicitly allowed the proprietor to grant manors with these rights. The second Lord Baltimore undoubtedly expected the newly created manor lords to exercise these privileges.

The plan was to recruit men of wealth and high social position by grants of both land and power. These leaders were to finance the transportation of settlers who were to improve the lands of the manor lords, attend their courts, and pursue prosperity as their tenants. The lords would serve Lord Baltimore’s interests (as well as their own) by populating and developing their lands, organizing the production of commodities for trade, and providing community leadership. Lord Baltimore, as proprietor, to whom the lords paid rents and owed loyalty, was meant to be at the apex of this new society. With this plan he expected not only to attract investors and settlers but to create a stable social order in a wilderness thousands of miles from England. But such a