

**THE FOUNDERS OF MARYLAND  
AS PORTRAYED IN  
MANUSCRIPTS, PROVINCIAL  
RECORDS AND EARLY  
DOCUMENTS**

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The Founders of Maryland as Portrayed in Manuscripts, Provincial Records and Early Documents by Edward D. Neill

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THE  
FOUNDERS OF MARYLAND

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EARLY DOCUMENTS,

BY

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LONDON," "TERRA MARIS," "FAIRFAXS OF ENGLAND AND AMERICA,"  
"HISTORY OF MINNESOTA," ETC.

*"Nec falsa dicere, nec vera reticere."*



ALBANY:  
JOEL MUNSELL.  
1876.





## PREFACE.

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Every year, the citizens of ancient Padua crowd the costly church, dedicated to their townsman, the Italian Saint Anthony, and hang upon its walls, or around the shrine, sketches in oil, or water colors, commemorative of important events in their lives.

One of the many good results of the centennial year of the American Republic, is the taking down from the garrets, the neglected portraits of our forefathers, the removal of the stains and dust, the substitution of new frames, for those battered and worm eaten, and in remembering their labors for posterity.

With the aid of manuscripts, brought to light during the last decade, and access to the papers of the British Record Office, we can now portray more accurately, and hang in a better light, the **FOUNDERS OF MARYLAND.**

The object of this little book, is to state facts, which had become obscured or forgotten, concern-

ing the first European settlers on the shores of the Potomac River, and Chesapeake Bay.

Bearing in mind, the sentiment of Hieronymus in a letter to Epiphanius: "*Malem aliena verecunde dicere, quam jura imprudenter ingerere,*" I have recorded facts, gleaned from the manuscript Provincial Records at the capital of Maryland, and other documents of the Provincial period, rather than obtruded my own opinions.

EDWARD D. NEILL.

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near Falls of Saint Anthony,  
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## FOUNDERS OF MARYLAND.

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### HENRY FLEET.

**B**EFORE the charter of Maryland was granted, English men, engaged in the beaver trade, had settled upon the isles and shores of the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries. As one turns over the pages of the large manuscript volumes in folio, prepared by the Secretary of the London Company, he reads that on July 21st, 1621, a paper was read from Ensign Savage, relating to the great trade of furs, by Frenchmen, in the Great Bay. The letters of John Fory, Secretary of the Virginia Colony, also informed the Company of a discovery, by him and others, into the Great Bay northward, where he left "settled, very happily, near an hundred Englishmen, with hope of a good trade of furs." Among the first points, occupied by traders, was the island situated at the head of the Chesapeake Bay, near the mouth of the Susquahanna River, which was called Palmer's Island, after Edward Palmer, a nephew of the unfortunate Sir Thomas Overbury, poisoned by the malicious arrangements of the wanton wife of the Earl of Somerset. Camden speaks of Palmer as a