

**FUND-PUBLICATION,  
NO. 8; THE LORDS  
BALTIMORE**

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THE

# LORDS BALTIMORE:



BY

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Baltimore, 1874.

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## THE LORDS BALTIMORE.

**T**HE memory of the founders of States and of great institutions, benevolent, literary or civil, should be cherished with patriotic fervor, and that of the Baltimore family should be especially interesting to every Marylander; not that all the members of it were persons of splendid abilities, or of great achievements, or even of honorable conduct, but they were all more or less intimately connected with the early history of our State, and several of them rendered distinguished services to mankind.

There is no connected history of the family extant. There is no complete biography of any one of them. The materials for the history of them are very scant, and they must be sought in old chronicles, colonial records, books of peerage and contemporary periodicals. From these some disconnected facts may be drawn, some of which it is not easy to reconcile with others.

If I have succeeded in bringing together some memoranda of this family and stringing them in chronological order and historical sequence, I shall

have done what was never before attempted, and shall have furnished to the student of Maryland history many interesting facts which he could only find scattered through many volumes.

The first character claiming our attention and the founder of the family is GEORGE CALVERT. He is the real founder of the colony of Maryland, although he never resided here and did not even live to hear of the successful establishment of his projected settlement in this Western world.

It would be highly desirable to give a satisfactory sketch of some of the minute particulars of his life; but as the historians who have written upon the affairs of his two colonies have been sparing in their accounts of both his character and his life, and the few American biographers who have briefly mentioned him<sup>(1)</sup> have given barren and contradictory accounts of him, so that it is impossible, at this day, to gratify the reader with many interesting incidents relative to him.<sup>(2)</sup> There is no man distinguished by so large and active a participation in the colonial history of this country of whom so few memorials remain in published records. It is, in part, the reproach of our State, that so little is known of him. For there is good reason to believe that manuscripts and other relics of his history exist, which have

(1) Belknap's American Biog. Dictionary. Allen's Amer. Biog. Dict.

(2) Bozman's History of Maryland, vol. i, 232.



not been brought to our notice on this side of the Atlantic.<sup>(1)</sup>

He is said to have been descended from a noble family in Flanders, but he himself an Englishman, was born at a place called Kipling in Yorkshire, England, in the year 1582.<sup>(2)</sup> His father's name was Leonard Calvert, who lived at Danbywiske, and his mother's maiden name was Alicia Crossland. He was educated at All Saints College, Oxford, which he entered in 1593, where he remained four years, when he obtained the degree of Bachelor of Arts in 1597, and was created Master of Arts eight years after, August 30th, 1605. He acquired such proficiency in the ancient languages that at the early age of fifteen he published a Latin poem on the death of a friend, a diplomatist and gallant soldier, whose death was made the theme of college exercises, which per-

(1) Kennedy's Life and character of Calvert, p. 15. For interesting facts relating to this subject, see preface to J. H. Alexander's "Index to the Calendar of Maryland State Papers," p. 7.

(2) Bozman says, p. 232, "no place called *Kipling* appears on any map or any common description of Yorkshire," and thinks it may have been erroneously written or printed for *Ripley*, which is a small town in the West Riding of Yorkshire, but all the old English authorities are against him. Grainger's Biograph. Dictionary, vol. ii, 42, calls it *Kepley*. There is some difference among writers as to the year of his birth; some placing it in 1580, and others in 1582; one cause of these disagreements is the mispunctuation of a sentence in Woods' *Athens*, by which he is made fifteen years old at the time of leaving, instead of entering, the University. It is by no means probable that he became a commoner at Oxford at the age of eleven, and if he was fifteen when he entered, he must have been born in 1578. Fuller says he was fifty-three years old when he died, which would make the year of his birth about 1579.—*Streeter's MS.*

formance I shall notice hereafter when I come to speak of Lord Baltimore's writings. After leaving the University he made the tour of Europe, as is still the custom of young Englishmen of fortune, after having finished their college studies.

On his return to England, which must have been in 1602 or 1603, ("the beginning of the reign of James I.,") and when he had attained the age of twenty-four or twenty-six years, he was appointed, September 3d, 1606, prothonotary and keeper of the writs, bills, files, records and rolls within the Province of Connaught and Thomand, Ireland. He was also appointed Clerk to the Crown and of the Peace and of the Assizes and Nisi Prius for life, but he surrendered this office April 1st, 1616. Before this, in addition to these important trusts, he was appointed one of the Commissioners to go to Ireland to examine the condition of affairs and to listen to the grievances and adjust them. The King bestowed not only honors upon him but rewards. In 1620 Calvert received a grant of the increased customs on silk for twenty-one years, and an annual pension of £1000. Whilst Clerk of the Privy Council, he became a great favorite of King James, and accompanied him on his excursions. Being well acquainted with foreign languages, he was also at this time entrusted with the Italian and Spanish correspondence, a position held by John Mil-

ton, under the Commonwealth. He was elected to Parliament in 1620 and subsequently again, where he stoutly maintained the royal prerogatives against the party which favored parliamentary power and privilege.

He was so highly esteemed for his knowledge and penetration in State affairs,<sup>(1)</sup> that his abilities recommended him to Sir Robert Cecil, who had been one of the principal Secretaries of State at the death of Queen Elizabeth, and who, by artful management as well as for his great services in securing James' succession, was continued in that office by King James. Sir Robert appointed young Calvert his chief clerk, and when the former was advanced to the office of Lord High Treasurer, as Earl of Salisbury, he still retained his favorite clerk and made use of his prudence and fidelity in many important affairs, and procured for him afterwards the post of one of the clerks of the Privy Council.

He must have been regarded as a man of distinguished abilities, or he would not have been elevated to such positions of responsibility over many other young men of influential families. He must have discharged his duties faithfully, for in 1617, he was knighted and became SIR GEORGE CALVERT, a distinction earnestly coveted

(1) "A forward and knowing person in matters relating to the State."—*Woods' Athenæ, Ox.*