



# The Linden Times

A bi-weekly newsletter for the members & friends of the Calvert County Historical Society – May 6, 2020

**Have you ever wondered** what it must have been like to be an early colonist in the New World and especially Maryland and Calvert County? Over the next few months The Linden Times will try to give you a sense of what rudimental colonial life was like for men, women, children, indentured servants and slaves.

Calvert County and the Chesapeake Bay region were primarily settled from England and western European. They settled in small communities with similar or likeminded social, economic and religious practices and beliefs. Almost all the mores, beliefs and behaviors of the early settlers came with them from the Old World to the New World. Thus, while the New World offered opportunity and fresh beginnings, the majority of the people were steeped and lived by established religious, social principles and standards. These standards and rules were taught to them primarily by their parents, sanctioned by the church and put into daily practice in judgmental and pejorative communities.



Maryland State House Caucus Room - *The Landing of the Maryland Colonists from the Ark & the Dove, St. Clement's Island, March 25, 1634* - Artist: Peter Egeli



*The Ark and Dove, Hammond Gibson, c. 1970. Collection of the Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum*

**The Ark and Dove** were the two ships that began the Maryland Colony. *Ark* was a 400-ton capacity cargo ship hired by Cecil Calvert to transport about 140 colonists and their equipment and supplies to Maryland. *Dove* was a much smaller 40-ton capacity cargo ship purchased by Cecil Calvert and investors so that the colonists would have their own ship to use once *Ark* had sailed for England.

The two ships set sail from the Isle of Wight on 22 November 1633. Three days later, on 25 March, a storm arose in the channel and *Dove* was seen flying distress lanterns at her masthead before she disappeared into the storm. Those aboard *Ark* assumed she had sunk in the storm. It was not until six weeks later that they discovered otherwise, when *Dove* arrived in Barbados and rejoined *Ark*. The two ships arrived

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Calvert County Historical Society

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at Old Point Comfort on 24 February 1634, after a voyage of three months (of which 66 days were spent at sea). After spending a week at Old Point Comfort, they departed on 3 March to sail up the Chesapeake to the Potomac River, where they landed on St. Clements Island. They spent the rest of March exploring and negotiating with the Indians for a place to settle. On 25 March, Father Andrew White held a Mass of Thanksgiving to celebrate the purchase of 30 square miles of land on the East Bank of the St. Mary's River, and on 27 March the colonists departed St. Clements to occupy the land they had purchased, naming their settlement "St. Mary's."

At the end of May, *Ark* returned to England, leaving *Dove* behind to provide transportation for goods to be traded up and down the Atlantic seacoast. In the fall of 1634, *Dove* was sent north to Boston to trade corn for salt cod and other commodities. In August of 1635, *Dove* was sent back to England with furs and timber to trade. *Dove* was never seen again, probably lost at sea.



**Settlements on** and around the Chesapeake, in both Virginia and Maryland, were initially begun as money making enterprises by investors and then too by the English government to help free Britain from the problems associated with the poor population, over-crowding and a way of removing religious dissenters. After a few first settlements proved somewhat stable, these colonies later became opportunities for the poor seeking a better life. The English government at the time also used the new world as a place to reduce their non-conforming Catholic and other non-believing Anglican populations. Such was the case when Lord Baltimore established the colony of Maryland that would be a safeguard for Catholics, against the Anglican persecution. In the fledgling new world, Maryland was known to have fostered the most religious toleration, within all of the Thirteen Colonies. The colonial New World was settled and regulated by the predominant religion, social and economic foundations of that region. The colonies in the mid and southern regions were largely agrarian and were the Chesapeake Region, and the Southern Region. The Chesapeake Region featured many who had moved down from the Middle Colonies and up from the Southern Colonies, after being released from indentured servitude and seeking more religious freedoms.



Our consolidated Calvert County Historical Society annual membership renewal of June 1<sup>st</sup> is fast approaching.

Our membership and donations are the life blood of the CCHS. A Calvert County Historical Society membership helps support Linden, the Archives, and the numerous educational programs, workshops, seasonal and holiday membership events we offer throughout the year. Thank you for your continued support.

"The beginning is the most important part of the work." — Plato