

St. Clements Island. The celebration of mass here on Annunciation Day has fixed for tradition March 25th as the date of arrival of Maryland's first settlers, as well as the name, St. Mary's City. It was, however, some time after that that the Yaocomico Indians, holding the coveted territory, sold their possessions to the newcomers, and the first site, called then "Augusta Carolana", was available. A palisade was erected immediately.

Government from St. Mary's City

For upwards of sixty years, the Province centered around St. Mary's City. The Assembly, set up very soon after a food supply had been assured and protection against enemies provided, was made up of the freemen, *i. e.*, planters and settlers. The combined efforts of all the settlers were needed, moreover, to cope with the almost immediate difficulty that arose with white settlers from Virginia who had begun trading with the Indians before the Calvert party arrived. The foremost among these men was Captain William Claiborne, a trader with headquarters on Kent Island. The dispute is sometimes known as the Calvert-Claiborne controversy. After a naval skirmish and slight loss of life, Claiborne was declared an outlaw March 24, 1637.

"Ingle's War" was another vexation in the peaceful ordering of the new colony. Richard Ingle was a vigorous partisan of Parliament in the oncoming struggle with the King that was to produce the Commonwealth. Coming to Maryland as a mariner in 1645, he exceeded any legal powers he might have had and took possession of St. Mary's City, making prisoner members of the Assembly. The affair ended inconclusively in 1647, but Ingle, meanwhile, arrested and took in chains to England Father White and Father Copley.

Act of Toleration

The bigotry implicit in Ingle's special irritation at Catholic priests and Royalists makes especially pointed the solicitude Lord Baltimore showed at this period for freedom of conscience. As early as 1643, the Puritan Governor of Massachusetts, John Winthrop, had spoken approvingly of Governor Calvert as "for free liberty of religion". The Governor had taken a more liberal attitude on the question of Puritan settlers, surely, than had the administrators of Virginia. The "Act concerning Religion" which the Maryland Assembly passed in 1649 gives Maryland rightful claim