

Allies by Land, Legacy, Oath, and Other Contrivances

by Susan Wilkinson, HSMC Director of Marketing and Communications

Did you ever have a housemate or roommate? Do you remember worrying about how this relationship would impact your furniture, your dahlias, and your dog? If you chose your companion wisely or were simply lucky, the roommate folded the laundry you left in the dryer before they loaded theirs, asked before they wolfed down your Brie, paid their share on time, loved taking care of Fido while you traveled, and developed into a friend, confidante, and ally. If your luck or judgment was compromised you might come home and find the refrigerator empty, the furniture gone, and gypsies camped in your basement. You probably made up your mind about what house privileges this person would have, how much rent they would contribute, and other matters long before the housemate appeared. You may have discovered these 'rules' need to be modified over time.



Those who have shared hearth and home with a stranger might readily imagine how Cecil Calvert, the second Lord Baltimore, must have felt when he was trying to populate his new world colony, Maryland. These same concerns attend immigration in general. Because the physical, spiritual, and financial well-being of the host and newcomer are at stake a set of rules is typically developed to govern the relationship. At best, both parties benefit.

Calvert recognized that a growing citizenry was essential to Maryland's success. Like a good housemate, his colonists would provide a nominal income and help protect his interests. The Maryland Charter gave Calvert the power to entice new citizens with offers of land and the chance to participate in government. How did Calvert find settlers? The same way you would find someone to share your house — he advertised.

He then developed and published Conditions of Plantation, which defined how land would be distributed to immigrants, or Adventurers, as the first settlers were called. During the early years, when life in the colony was hardest, most dangerous, and the land of little value, the conditions were most generous. ". . . for every five men aged between sixteen and fifty years which such Adventurer did bring into our said Province to inhabitt and plant there in the year of our Lord 1633 and unto his heires forever, a grant of two thousand acres of Land of English measure for the yearly rent of 400 lb. of good wheat. . ." By 1635, Adventurers had to bring twice that number of men, 10, to obtain the same amount of land and the annual rent had gone up 50%, to 600 lb. of wheat.

Over time, fear of giving property and power to those with less than full allegiance to Lord and King prompted Calvert to include an oath of fidelity and to grant land only to those of British or Irish descent. Following one of many boundary disputes, the Conditions were eventually loosened to include those of French, Dutch, or Italian descent. Swedes and Dutch who had settled along the Delaware Bay were thought to be encroaching upon Proprietary lands. Rather than forcibly ejecting the settlers, their move to territory clearly within Lord Baltimore's jurisdiction was negotiated. In return, the Proprietor conferred some property rights upon individual settlers, even though they were not born within the British dominions. The first such denization, granted in 1660, allowed the denizen to purchase land. Still, the privileges bestowed were well beneath a native-born or naturalized citizen. A

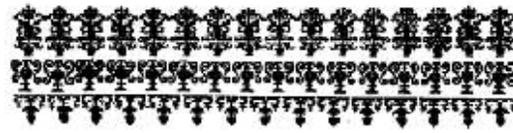
denizen could not be part of the Privy Council or House of Parliament, hold any office of trust, or receive a grant of land from the Crown.

In 1666, an Englishman whose children had been born outside the British dominion, petitioned to secure citizens' rights for his children. Others argued in his favor, noting that granting anything less than full rights would handicap development of the province. Consequently, legislative naturalization, based on a recommendation by the Assembly and the Council, was established. Granted on a case-by-case basis, the naturalization ceremony included an oath of allegiance and issuance of letters patent. Members of four families were granted citizenship in the first year. Among them were the children of Captain James Neale and his wife Anna, who were born in Spain and Portugal while the Captain was posted abroad; Hak family members born in Holland and Virginia; Augustine Herman, who mapped much of Lord Baltimore's territory and who was born in Prague, Bohemia; and John Jarboe of Dijon, France.

By 1735, a general naturalization was enacted, permitting the Governor to naturalize citizens without the Assembly's approval. Initially, the process included a pledge of allegiance to the Protestant King and repudiation of the Pope. Later modifications added certain residency requirements; a certificate confirming the applicant had recently received a Protestant communion and a two-shilling fee to the requirements. Eventually, certain faiths were relieved of taking the oath. Political restrictions stayed in force through 1773 though, until the Assembly passed a statute that allowed Quakers, Presbyterians, and other non-Catholics granted Parliamentary naturalizations to participate fully in the political life of adopted land. Although Lord Baltimore's approval of naturalization was perhaps not the first, it was one of the earliest steps taken to make immigrants full citizens under an American government.

Today, naturalization is still the way immigrants become citizens of the United States. If you believe everything you read on the Internet, citizenship can be had for \$54.99. In reality, applicants must meet residency and language requirements, pass a civics test, and demonstrate good moral character along with an attachment to the Constitution of the United States. As a citizen, foreign-born individuals can vote, carry a U.S. passport, and sponsor incoming family members. Naturalized citizens can hold certain government jobs, run as a candidate in local, state and some federal elections and hold a position in the government but they cannot become a police officer or be elected President or Vice President. Children of naturalized citizens have "derived citizenship". Some elect to participate in a Citizenship Ceremony. Participants swear an oath of allegiance and their citizenship is formalized with a certificate.

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CHAP. I.
A RELATION
Of the Lord BALTEMORE'S
Plantation in *Maryland*.

HIS most Excellent Majestie having by his Letters Patent, under the Great Seale of *England*, granted a certaine Countrey in *America* (now called *Maryland*, in honour of our gracious Queene) unto the Lord *Baltemore*, with divers Priviledges, and encouragements to all those that should adventure with his Lordship in the Planting of that Countrey: the benefit and honour of such an action was readily apprehended by divers Gentlemen, of good birth and qualitie, who thereupon resolved to adventure their Persons, and a good part of their fortunes