

ments of a manor. A manor was a large grant of land of a thousand acres or more belonging to one individual who rented or leased out parcels of it to tenants. There were about 62 such manors granted to private adventurers in Maryland and about half as many were erected by the Lord Proprietor himself.² The manor rents referred to in this study naturally refer only to the manors owned by the Proprietor as rents on the others were collected by the individuals to whom they were granted. The preponderant importance of the quit rents as a source of revenue is readily apparent when one compares average annual income for the years on record from all four types of land revenues. Whereas alienation fines yielded from 130 to 200 pounds sterling each year, manor rents about 1,000 pounds, purchase or caution money payments between 1500 and 2500 pounds, quit rents amounted, on an average, to between five to six thousand pounds.³ Since the quit rents represented the greatest single item of the Lord Proprietor's income from his colony, it is not surprising that the levying and collection of them was ever a serious issue both for the Lord Proprietor and the Marylanders. The former constantly strove to increase the amount, the latter, to prevent such an increase. The rent began, in 1633, as twenty pounds of wheat per hundred acres. In 1642 it was increased to two shillings for every hundred acres and several years later it was raised to four shillings.⁴ In 1671 a duty of twelve pence per hogshead on exported tobacco took the place of normal quit rent (the colony's whole economy at this time was based on the growing and exporting of tobacco) and from 1717 to 1733 a similar law provided a two shilling per hogshead duty to cover all quit rent claims. After 1733 until the Revolution quit rents were again collected normally as before 1671, for the most part at four shillings per hundred acres.⁵ Although the total income from manor rents was much less than from freehold rents because there were so many more of the latter, the rent rate for both averaged about the same, the one being higher at one time and the other at another.

² Donnell MacClure Owings, "Private Manors: An Edited List", p. 307, *Maryland Historical Magazine*, XXXIII, 4, 1938.

³ Charles A. Barker, *The Background of the Revolution in Maryland*, New Haven, 1940, p. 140.

⁴ Gould, p. 33.

⁵ Charles A. Barker, "Property Rights in the Provincial System of Maryland," *Journal of Southern History*, II, No. 2, pp. 5-6, 10.