

# THE FIRST EXPEDITION TO MARYLAND

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**O**N ST. CECILIAS DAY, the 22 of November 1633 with a gentle Northerne gale we set saile from the Cowes about 10 in the morninge." So began the earliest English version of Father Andrew White's narrative of the first expedition to found the Province of Maryland.<sup>1</sup> More than a year of planning had preceded this historic departure. Cecil Calvert, second Baron of Baltimore, had received the grant of Maryland from King Charles I on June 20, 1632. Since that day, and for some time before, he had been seeking investors and settlers, arranging for ships and supplies, and by skillful political maneuvers defeating opponents who hoped to persuade the king to rescind the charter and kill the whole enterprise.<sup>2</sup>

## Plans and Promotions

Cecil Calvert and his father, George Calvert, the first Lord Baltimore, shared two prime interrelated goals.<sup>3</sup> As land developers they looked for profits, and as Catholics they sought an escape from the legal disabilities Catholics suffered in England. George Calvert had been attracted to the possible profits of colonies when a public servant at the court of James I and had begun developing a plantation on Newfoundland in the early 1620s. His reconversion to Roman Catholicism, his childhood religion, about 1625, ended his public career, but not his