Early Settlers – Extended Profiles

1. Leonard Calvert

The king in England gave land in Maryland to Lord Baltimore's family. The youngest brother in the family was Leonard Calvert. He sailed to Maryland in 1633 with two ships of settlers, almost 300 people. He became the governor of Maryland.

Leonard practiced the Catholic religion like many of the settlers he brought with him. It was difficult to be a Catholic in England. There were only a few Catholics. People didn't like them. People did not want to give them jobs. Leonard Calvert promised these settlers that they could practice their religion safely in Maryland. He said that Maryland would be a place that was safe for all religions.

Not everyone agreed with Governor Calvert. He fought many battles with words and with swords. He stayed governor until his death in 1647.

2. Anthony Johnson

Anthony Johnson came to Jamestown, Virginia in 1619 from Africa. He was an indentured servant for four years before he became free in 1623. An indentured servant worked for food and a place to sleep to pay for the trip to the colonies.

Anthony worked beside many other indentured servants. Some history writers say that 75% of the early settlers began their life in the colonies as indentured servants. It was a hard way to live. Many indentured servants died. Many of the others never became very rich.

Anthony Johnson was an indentured servant who worked hard and was successful. After he became free, he stayed in Jamestown and married. He had four children. In a few years, Anthony Johnson owned cows and land and even had indentured servants of his own.

3. Hester Cooke

Francis Cooke came to Plymouth, Massachusetts on the ship Mayflower in 1620. He knew that it would not be easy to make a home in a strange land where there were no other people from Europe. He and the other settlers slowly built their colony with help from Native Americans who lived nearby.

In 1623, his wife, Hester Cooke and their two children, Jacob and Jane, came on a later ship to join him. Some families had come on the Mayflower, but many, like Hester, waited for their husbands to tell them to come.

She saw men who were thin and hungry. Their clothing had holes in it. They told stories of sickness and problems with their Native American neighbors. But Hester also saw the homes and the fields growing with food.

She and all of the other wives and children who came with her on the ship stayed and worked to help build their new world.

4. Daniel Dulany

Daniel Dulany was in college in Ireland when his father got sick. The family decided to send Daniel and his two brothers to Maryland in 1703.

Daniel became an indentured servant to a rich lawyer, George Prater. An indentured servant promised to work for three to seven years without getting any money. Mr. Prater paid for Daniel's ocean voyage to the colonies and provided a place to sleep and food to eat. Daniel worked and studied law with Mr. Prater for three years. After three years, he was free.

Many indentured servants always stayed poor. Daniel Dulany became one of the most important men in Maryland. He married and had fifteen children. He was a member of the government of the colony. Later, he was the attorney general in Maryland. An attorney general is the lawyer for the government.

Daniel Dulany was more than a lawyer. He was one of the biggest land owners in Maryland. He built a factory to make iron and he designed a town called Frederick that became one of the largest towns in Maryland. It is still there today.