Charles Benedict Calvert Research Guide

Introduction and Biography

Charles Benedict Calvert, descendant of the first Lord Baltimore, is generally considered the primary force behind the founding of the Maryland Agricultural College. Chartered in 1856, the College was the forerunner of today’s University of Maryland, College Park. For over twenty-five years, Calvert articulated a strong vision of agricultural education throughout the state of Maryland and acted in innumerable ways to make his vision a reality. He and his brother, George H. Calvert, sold the land that formed the core of the College Park campus for $20,000, half its original cost, and lent the college half of the purchase price. He was elected as the first Chairman of the Board of Trustees, held the second largest number of subscriptions to charter the college, chaired a committee to plan the first buildings, laid the cornerstone for the “Barracks,” stepped in to serve as president of the college when the first president had to resign, and underwrote college expenses when there was no money to pay salaries.

Born on August 23, 1808, Charles Benedict was the fifth child of George Calvert and Rosalie Stier Calvert. He was educated at Bladensburg Academy, attended boarding school in Philadelphia, and spent two years in study at the University of Virginia. He took an early and active interest in the workings of Riversdale, his family estate, located a short distance from the College Park campus, and took over its operation upon the death of his father in 1838. In 1839, he married Charlotte Augusta Norris of Baltimore and together they had five children, four of whom lived to adulthood.

Calvert left an impression far beyond the campus of the Maryland Agricultural College. He served three terms in the Maryland House of Delegates. His agricultural leadership began with his tenure as president of the Prince George’s County Agricultural Society, then expanded to the state and national level. He was a founding member of the Maryland Agricultural Society and served as its president in its formative years, 1848-1854. Later, he served as a vice president of the United States Agricultural Society. His association with agricultural societies provided a platform from which he could advocate another of his cherished goals—representation of farming interests at the highest level of executive government. Calvert represented the 6th District of Maryland in the 37th Congress from 1861-1863. The pinnacle of his service was the passage of a bill to create a separate bureau of agriculture, signed by Abraham Lincoln on May 15, 1862. The bureau was elevated to a cabinet department in 1889. He was also known in Congress as a proponent of slave owners’ property rights. At once a staunch unionist, a beneficiary of the planter’s way of life, and a citizen of a state more divided than any other, his life was a microcosm of the Civil War conflict.

However, Calvert must first and foremost be described as a farmer. He worked at and discussed cattle breeding, guano, farm buildings, machinery, and irrigation as
easily as he discoursed on loftier and broader themes. He experimented widely and broadly to improve agricultural productivity.

No large cache of Calvert’s personal papers is available for examination, but he did regularly speak and write in public forums, and his ideas inspired comment from others. From his own words, we know that he was a man of strongly held views and plain but well-crafted language. He questioned the status quo in many arenas while holding fast to traditional ways in others. He was known as a generous man and, with his wife, Charlotte, he entertained graciously at Riversdale and at the National Hotel in Washington, in which he held an ownership interest passed down from his father. His untimely death in 1864 robbed the Maryland Agricultural College of years of valuable stewardship and the world of an accomplished man.

This research guide identifies known primary sources of information about Calvert — university records and publications, government documents, farm journals, newspapers, and manuscripts, with a particular emphasis on materials available at University of Maryland, College Park. There may well be additional primary material in papers of other significant figures of the day with whom he corresponded and more accounts of his activities in the large selection of Maryland and Washington, D. C., newspapers. Secondary material about his life and contributions, including monographs, articles, theses and dissertations, are also cited in this guide.

This guide has two goals: to encourage a closer look at the University of Maryland’s founder, Charles Benedict Calvert, and to inspire further research into his remarkable life.
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Acknowledgments
BIOGRAPHICAL DICTIONARIES & ENCYCLOPEDIAS

UMCP McKeldin Library Reference Stacks CT213.A68 1999

UMCP McKeldin Library Reference Stacks E176.D563

Enoch Pratt Free Library Social Science & History Department E176.L292 1876

Enoch Pratt Free Library Social Science & History Department E176.L292


UMCP McKeldin Library Reference & Stacks S441.S36

Multiple Locations — UMCP HBK Maryland Room Maryland Stacks E663.W54

UMCP HBK Maryland Room Maryland Folio JK1010.A54 1971
• Earlier and later editions of this publication are also available at McKeldin Library.

MANUSCRIPTS

Manuscripts are written, unpublished records of individuals and families. Letters, diaries, speeches, business documents, maps, photographs, and aural recordings are just some of the record types that are considered manuscripts. By examining the lives of even ordinary citizens through the study of manuscripts, researchers can learn much about societal and historical events.

It is possible that researching the papers of other contemporaries of Calvert, with whom he is likely to have corresponded, will bring additional, relevant materials to light. For example, while a review of the Papers of W. W. Corcoran at the Manuscripts Division of the Library of Congress did not reveal any direct correspondence between Charles Benedict Calvert and Corcoran, two letters to Corcoran about the Maryland Agricultural College were located: one from his Calvert’s son, Charles Baltimore, and another from Thomas G. Clemson. Finding aids for both the Henry Clay Family Papers and the Samuel F. B. Morse Papers, also housed at the Library of Congress, did not refer to Calvert, but it is possible he is mentioned in their correspondence. However, the published papers of Clay do include a letter written to Calvert. See Library of Congress and Monographs below.

For more information about manuscript research, review Research in Special Collections.

University of Maryland
UMCP HBK Maryland Room

Maryland Manuscripts

MDMS 1538: Calvert, Charles Benedict: Address delivered at the third annual exhibition of the Frederick County Agricultural Society, October 26, 1855.
   • 25-page pamphlet advocating the founding of a national agricultural college and one for each state. Also available at Enoch Pratt Free Library Maryland Department S72.F7.

MDMS 4031: Letter from four Maryland Civil War Congressmen to U.S. Attorney General, recommending Maryland Judge Stump of Baltimore for Federal office; Charles Benedict Calvert autograph.

MDMS 4034: Bound Report of Major Alfred Mordecai of Ordnance Department, Military Commission to Europe, 1861; Charles Benedict Calvert autograph.

MDMS 4077: Slave account book of Charles Benedict Calvert, listing names, ages, value, and sale price of 330 slaves residing at several of Calvert's farms.

MDMS 4980: Stock certificate, 1858 April 6: Certificate for 880 shares of Maryland Agricultural College stock owned by Charles Benedict Calvert, the college's founder.
MDMS 5421: 78” x 52” map of Riverdale Demesnes, Rossburg Farm in Prince George’s County belonging to Charles Benedict Calvert—William Sides, surveyor.

- Original Hanging in the Maryland Room at Hornbake Library; facsimiles stored in mapcase 2, drawer 27.


- Letter from Charles Benedict Calvert to Baltimore businessman J. C. Nicholson describing his early plans for the Maryland Agricultural College, as the university was originally known, and encouraging Nicholson to send his son to the college.

**Historical Manuscripts**

**Sterling Byrd Collection**, Acc. 99-72, Box 54

Maryland State Agricultural Society Document:

Resolution of the Maryland State Agricultural Society, signed by Charles B. Calvert, February 7, 1849

- Resolved that Ramsay McHenry be requested to keep a diary of agricultural observations during a proposed trip to Europe and report back to the society matters he considers “useful and interesting.”

College Documents:

Maryland Agricultural College stock certificate, signed by Charles B. Calvert, 1858

- Certificate No. 12 issuing 20 shares to George Forbes.

Report of the Register of the Maryland Agricultural College to the Board of Trustees; Act of Incorporation with Amendments thereto, List of Officers, and Names of Stockholders, with number of shares held by each (1858.)

- History of the gathering of subscriptions, selection of site, and educational program and a “brief sketch of the origin, progress, plan, objects and purposes of the Maryland Agricultural College.” Calvert is listed as the owner of 880 shares. Also available in University Publications UPUB M5.008.

Correspondence:

J. Thompson Mason to Charles B. Calvert, September 1, 1849

- Inquiry about calf offer published in the *American Farmer.*

James T. Earle to Charles B. Calvert, February 5, 1849
• Earle’s regrets that he cannot attend upcoming society meeting and advises a memorial to Congress for donation of land for proposed agricultural school.

J. Howard McHenry to Charles B. Calvert, January 5, 1854
• Inquiry about the plan of instruction and suggestions about governance and inducements for subscribers.

William C. Rives to Charles B. Calvert, April 28, 1859
• Inquiry about the role of practical agriculture; “What is deemed by you most essential to its utility?”

John Carroll Walsh to Charles B. Calvert, June 2, 1852
• Walsh would be pleased to receive an appointment to the national agricultural convention in Washington, D. C.

A. B. Davis to Charles B. Calvert, November 17, 1849
• Recommendations of committee composition and of specific committee members.

Martin Goldsborough to Charles B. Calvert, August 20, 1849
• Regrets that Calvert could not attend a recent gathering, “kept away by the illness of your babe who has since passed.” Other subjects: Earle’s resolution to memorialize Congress and proceedings at next exhibition.

Col. Goldsborough to Charles B. Calvert, August 21, 1849
• Lengthy letter that includes an expression of sorrow for “domestic affliction” recently suffered by Calvert; discussion of timing of the agricultural exhibit [if it is not changed, it will be a “Western Shore cattle show”] and the role of the state society.

Martin Goldsborough to Charles B. Calvert, March 26, 1849
• Concern for Calvert’s “suffering” and a recommendation for a mustard water hot soak remedy; a request for a calf, preferably a Devon and further discussion of the problems of the exhibit date.

M. Tilghman Goldsborough to Charles B. Calvert, January 17, 1849
• Reporting that the Maryland Agricultural Society of the Eastern Shore elected Calvert as honorary member of the Board in December; delay in this letter caused by severe outbreak of influenza.

J. L. Skinner to Charles B. Calvert, January 25, 1849
• Questions about Earle’s resolution to memorialize Congress—its progress and its content.

C. P. Holcomb to Samuel Sands, November 13, 1849
• Delawarean Holcomb is concerned that his introduction of a resolution about increasing membership in the Maryland State Agricultural Society has the appearance of “meddling too much.”

T. A. Spence to Charles B. Calvert, November 4, 1848
• Snow Hill resident sends deep regrets that he cannot attend the State Fair; also mentions an interest in changing the date of the exhibition.

L. B. Hardin to Charles B. Calvert, February 21, 1848
- Writing from Alexandria, Virginia, Hardin asks if the calf offer extends beyond the borders of Prince George’s County.

T. L. Ringgold to Charles B. Calvert, April 16, 1849
- Inquiry about price and delivery of pigs advertised in the *American Farmer.*

Clement Hill to Charles B. Calvert, March 9, 1849
- Cover letter for bond submitted to secure one of Calvert’s calves.

William B. Hill to Charles B. Calvert, May 24, 1848
- Hill writes that he is “delighted” with his calf; bond is enclosed.

Martin Goldsborough to Charles B. Calvert, July 1, 1848
- Writing upon receipt of a pig from Calvert, which he calls “Duke of Riversdale,” Goldsborough goes on to discuss numerous topics including the time of the exhibition and the look of the wheat crop.

L. B. Hardin to Charles B. Calvert, February 29, 1848
- Hardin plans to send for the calf in a few days and enclose the bond at that time.

Bond of L. B. Hardin, March 1, 1848
- Promise to exhibit the calf as specified or pay a premium.

**Clemson University**

**Special Collections**

Mss 2: Thomas Green Clemson Papers, 1807-1888
- The Calvert and Clemson families socialized during the years that the Clemsons lived in Maryland. Two letters from Charlotte August Calvert to Anna Calhoun Clemson are included among the Thomas Green Clemson Papers; Charlotte wrote of household and family events and mutual friends. It is possible there are additional references to members of the Calvert family in the text of other correspondence. The finding aid is available at [http://www.lib.clemson.edu/SpCol/findingaids/ArchivesManuscriptsPDF/Mss002r.pdf](http://www.lib.clemson.edu/SpCol/findingaids/ArchivesManuscriptsPDF/Mss002r.pdf). (1 March 2005).

Mss 111: Floride Clemson Diary 1863-1866.
The original manuscript of Floride’s diary; published in 1989 as *A Rebel Came Home: The Diary and Letters of Floride Clemson, 1863-1865.* The complete citation is in [Monographs](http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/alhtml/malhome.html).

**Library of Congress**

- Search on “Charles B. Calvert” and “C. B. Calvert,” and select “match this exact phrase” from the drop-box menu to see seven items in the collection; three are letters from Calvert to Lincoln expressing his concerns about fugitive slaves.
MSS 409: Calvert, Charles Benedict, 1808-1864.  
Manuscript Reading Room.  
- Certified copies of Calvert’s will and letters testamentary granted to his brother, issued on April 4, 1882.

Manuscript Reading Room.  
Incoming Correspondence: Letter from Thomas G. Clemson, dated January 3, 1857, soliciting Corcoran’s donation and support for MAC; letter from Charles B. (Baltimore) Calvert, dated December 8, 1865, requesting Corcoran’s attendance at critical meeting of MAC Board of Trustees meeting.

Container 4, Papers of Thomas Corwin, 1794-1865.  
Manuscript Reading Room.  
- Letter from Charles Benedict Calvert dated November 11, 1850 on behalf of Mr. Decker, for whom Calvert is seeking an appointment to a clerkship by Mr. Corwin, Secretary of the Treasury. It was written about six weeks after the letter on the same subject, located at the Maryland Historical Society.

Maryland Historical Society  
MS 173: Charles Benedict Calvert Notebook, 1819, 1849  
- Colorful hand-drawn plats of Calvert properties dated January 16, 1849, with certification of surveyor dated 1819. The Prince George’s Society Frederick S. DeMarr Library holds black and white copies of the notebook in its Riversdale Vertical File.

MS 787: Henri Joseph Stier, 1743-1821, Correspondence, 1797-1828  
- Most of these letters were written in French from Stier to his daugher Rosalie Stier Calvert, Charles Benedict’s mother. There is one folder of translated, transcribed letters between Rosalie and her brother Jean Charles. There are a few mentions of Charles not included in the monograph Mistress of Riversdale: The Plantation letters of Rosalie Stier Calvert, 1795-1821. Rosalie describes Charles as the “finest boy ever seen” on July 15, 1811, and likens him to his sister, Eugenie, on October 30, 1809, who is “sweet and inspires love in us all.”

MS 1221: George Henry Calvert Letters, 1828-1878  
- Collection of Charles’ brother’s letters also includes correspondence between Charles’ children, Charles Baltimore, George Henry, and Ella in the year following his death. Ella writes on January 27, 1865, “I trust we will be able to keep Riversdale. The idea of selling it is very distressing to me.”

MS 1222: Cameron Family Papers, 1738-1836.
• Broadside—Address of Hon. Charles B. Calvert to the Voters of the Fifth Congressional District of Maryland, July 8, 1863. Published during Calvert’s unsuccessful run for Congress in 1863, he stands firm with the platform of the Union Convention of Maryland. “Although a slaveholder myself, I am not so seeded to the institution that I would sacrifice the public will or welfare of my State on the shrine of private or pecuniary interest.”

MS 1742.1: Register of Reform Associate Congregation, 1812-1865.
• Marriage of Charles B. Calvert and Charlotte A. Norris, June 6, 1839, p. 231. Baptism of daughter Ella Spence Calvert, April 15, 1840, p. 139.

Calvert, Charles Benedict, 1808-1864. Letter: to Thomas Corwin, 1850 Sept. 23. Vertical File, Main Reading Room
• Letter to the Secretary of the Treasury recommending Rev. John Decker, former Bladensburg Academy principal, for a position in Washington, D. C.

Maryland State Archives

MSA SC 910-B11-F8: Ridout Papers—Letters from Charles B. Calvert, 1861
• One letter on behalf of William G. Ridout to the Secretary of the Navy recommending him for a Naval Academy assistant professorship, the other to Ridout informing him of efforts on his behalf.

Prince George’s County Historical Society—Frederick S. DeMarr Library of History

The following vertical files contain a variety of material that pertain to the life of Charles Benedict Calvert, including newspaper clippings, correspondence with his descendants, and several articles listed in this guide. There is some duplication of material within the folders. Particularly noteworthy items are listed separately.

Calvert Family Vertical Files

Charles Benedict Calvert Vertical File
• Orphans’ Court Sale Catalogue of Antique Household Furniture, Charlotte A. Calvert, Deceased. Baltimore: W. K. Boye & Son’s Steam Printing Press, undated. Published for auction held after Charlotte’s death in 1876, the catalog contains a room-by-room list of furnishings, paintings, and books in the family library; copy of letter from Henry Clay to Calvert, dated July 19, 1850, in which he envies Calvert “the pleasant breezes of Riversdale.” Excerpts of the letter are published in The Papers of Henry Clay, Vol. 10. See full citation in Monographs.

Riversdale Vertical Files
• Black and white copies of the notebook of plats drawn by Calvert, held at the Maryland Historical Society (MS 173), a copy of the National Historic Landmark application for
Riversdale, and a copy of an 1849 insurance policy issued by the Montgomery County Mutual Insurance Company and signed by Charles Benedict Calvert.

**Riversdale Historic House Museum**

C. J. Stier Estate Division—Antoine J. Stier, Estate Division Folder:
- Copies of a letter from Calvert to Alphonse della Faille de Levergheres, Esq. dated November 12, 1855, regarding receipt for payment provided by James Mason Campbell, guardian of minor children of his sister Rosalie Eugenia, and liquidation receipt for estate of Antoine Joseph Stier, signed by Calvert, dated June 1, 1855. [Original documents are located in the Antoine Stier Papers, Van de Werve Archives, Viersal, Belgium ]

**University of Pennsylvania**

Calvert, Charles B. Lithograph sent to the Philadelphia Society for Promoting Agriculture, 1853.

Rare Book & Manuscript Library MS Coll. 92
- Ground plan of farm buildings and lithograph by A. Hoen & Co. of Baltimore depicting the buildings for cattle at Riversdale, the estate of Charles B. Calvert of Maryland.

**UNIVERSITY RECORDS**

**University of Maryland**

Records of Agricultural Experiment Station, ARCV 72-101, Series I: Correspondence, Subseries 3: University Correspondence, Box 7, Folder: History Agricultural Experiment Station.
- Letter from Calvert to the public, dated January 30, 1852 re: plan submitted to Maryland State Agricultural Society; typed text of letter from James T. Earle to Calvert dated February 5, 1849, informing Calvert that he will not be able to attend a Board of Managers meeting of the state agricultural society and advising a memorial to Congress to aid in the establishment of an agricultural school [original of Earle letter in Sterling Byrd Collection, Box 47.].

Records of the Mercer Literary Society, ARCV 94-91, Series I: Minutes, 1864-1900, Box 1, Minutes of 164th Regular Meeting on May 14, 1864.
- Resolution Passed upon the death of Charles Benedict Calvert.

Records of Phi Mu, ARCV 72-115, Series I: Initiation Papers: Box 8, Swick, Edgar H. “The history and construction of the Calvert mansion in Riversdale” (1931).
- Prepared for Swick’s initiation into Phi Mu, an engineering honor society, the paper traces the history, physical layout, and construction of Riversdale; it includes genealogy, photographs, and a first floor plan.

Student Grade Records, ARCV 72-120, Series I: Student Report Cards, 1860-1907, Box 1.
• Maryland Agricultural College, Report of the Standing of Washington Bowie, signed by Charles B. Calvert, President.

Office of Registrations, Student Register 1859-1907, ARCV 72-117, Series I: Student Registers 1859-1907, Box 1.
• Bound volume includes date arrived at Maryland Agricultural College, name, age, parent or guardian, post office, county, state, and date left MAC; Calvert’s sons listed as the first entrants into the college.

UNIVERSITY PUBLICATIONS

University of Maryland

UMCP HBK Maryland Room Archives, University Publications UPUB M5.008
• History of the gathering of subscriptions, selection of site, and educational program and a “brief sketch of the origin, progress, plan, objects and purposes of the Maryland Agricultural College.” Calvert is listed as the owner of 880 shares. Also available in Sterling Byrd Collection, Box 54.

Baltimore: John Murphy & Company, 1864.
UMCP HBK Maryland Room Archives, University Publications UPUB A36.001
• Statement of Indebtedness shows that the college owes $10,000 plus $3,000 interest to Calvert; $21,400 was paid for the land. Henry Onderdonk, Faculty President, reports that he has “sought to strengthen its capacity during his term,” raising enrollment from 17 to 67.

HBK Maryland Room Archives, University Publications UPUB C11.004
• The 1859 circular includes terms of admission, lists of faculty members and trustees, design of instruction, a description of the buildings, and information about expenses, vacations, donations, and student funds. The 1862/1863 circular includes additional entries: agricultural study, a list of students, divine worship, examinations, and commencement and a fold-out chart of the course of study.

University of Virginia
Alderman Library

Special Collections LD 5675.3 1878
• Calvert’s entry includes his year of birth and death, profession (farmer), home (near Bladensburg, Md.) and years of attendance (1826-1827.)

Special Collections LD5667
• Entry for Calvert lists enrollment in Ancient Languages, Modern Languages and Mathematics for the session commencing February 1st, 1826.

University of Virginia, *A catalogue of the officers and matriculates of the University of Virginia Third Session*. Charlottesville, Va.: Chronicle Steam Book Printing House, 1880.
Special Collections LD5667
• Entry for Calvert lists enrollment in Ancient Languages and Modern Languages for the session commencing February 1st, 1827.

GOVERNMENT DOCUMENTS

*Baltimore City Records at Maryland State Archives*

Baltimore City Register of Wills, Orphans Court Proceedings, Liber JHB No. 48, f. 42.
• Court Order on application of Thales A. Linthicum to serve as administrator of the estate of Charlotte Augusta Norris, widow of Charles B. Calvert, January 31, 1877; date of death was December 7, 1876.

Baltimore City Register of Wills, Orphans Court Proceedings, Liber JHB No. 48, f. 397.
• Court order on Linthicum’s application to hold a public sale of the personal estate of Charlotte Augusta Norris, all items except jewelry and certificates of stock, October 12, 1877.

• The inventory, dated September 17, 1877, lists jewelry valued at $844.50.

Baltimore City Register of Wills, Accounts of Sale, Liber JHB No. 52, f. 440.
• An eight-page accounting to Orphans Court, dated January 14, 1878, of the sale held at Riversdale on November 20, 1877, listing each item sold, amount paid and the name of the purchaser; the total amount of sales was $3,688.42. The largest revenue producers were japonicas -- $214.50
Federal Government

National Agricultural Library Stacks 1.90 A2Ag8 no.2
- Describes Calvert’s role in founding of Department of Agriculture.

Multiple Locations - UMCP HBK Maryland Room Maryland Stacks S21.C8 1963
- Legislative history of bill creating federal agricultural bureau.

- The Congressional Globe contains full congressional debates for the period 1833 to 1873. Calvert’s service in the 37th Congress spanned three calendar years, 1861-1863, in three separate sessions. Citations for Calvert’s substantive debate participation are:
  1st sess., 272: taxation
  2nd sess., 231-235: agricultural appropriations
  2nd sess., 885-886: government debt
  2nd sess., 1549: compensation for runaway slaves to offset property taxation
  2nd sess., 2134: proposal of an amendment preventing use of army appropriations for fugitive slaves
  2nd sess., 2213: the removal of the Naval Academy from Annapolis to Newport
  2nd sess., 2763: organization of the Patent Office
  2nd sess., 2889: advantages of hiring private engravers
  2nd sess., 2896: site for Naval Academy
  2nd sess., 3215: emancipation in the District
  3rd sess., 210: agricultural appropriations
  3rd sess., 254: inhuman treatment of a soldier
  3rd sess., 654: Negro soldiers
  3rd sess., 748 & 888, 891-892: Naval appropriations and illegal appointments to the Academy
  3rd sess., 1394: Botanic Garden
  3rd sess., 697: Washington Theatre Company

UMCP HBK Maryland Room Maryland Microfilm HD1775.M3U5
In 1850, Charles Benedict Calvert’s farm consisted of 1,600 improved acres and 900 unimproved acres, together worth $45,000. Among the livestock were twenty horses, 100 cows, 150 sheep, and 150 swine. The largest crop, in terms of volume, was Indian Corn. Special notation was made of turnip, milk, and cream production. The manufacturing census lists a steam-powered sawing mill owned by Calvert, employing on average 10 hands.

Although the title doesn’t indicate it, the microfilm does include data for 1860. At that point, Calvert’s farm shows a decrease in acreage but more than a four-fold increase in farm value, less livestock, and more production of oats, rye, and hay than ten years before. No manufacturing entry could be located for Calvert in 1860.

In 1860, The Maryland Agricultural College reported 428 improved acres and 100 unimproved acres, together worth $65,000, as well as production of wheat, Indian corn, oats, hay, and butter.


UMCP HBK Maryland Room Maryland Microfilm HA422.A4 1840

- The Calvert entry shows the following free white persons: one male between the ages 30 and 40 and four females, one less then 5 years old, two between the ages 20 and 30, and one between the ages of 50 and 60. The entry for “colored” persons lists 35 males and 16 females. Thirty-four people were employed in agriculture.


UMCP HBK Maryland Room Maryland Microfilm HA422.A4 1850

- “Schedule 1. Free Inhabitants” lists Calvert, profession “farmer,” at age 41, his wife at age 33, and his children at ages 10, 8, 7, 4, and 3. The value of his real estate was listed at $125,000. “Schedule 2. Slave Inhabitants” has two entries for Charles B. Calvert, one with 65 slaves and the other with 4 slaves.


UMCP HBK Maryland Room Maryland Microfilm HA422.A4 1860

- “Schedule 1. Free Inhabitants” lists Calvert at age 52, his wife at age 45, and his children at ages 21, 19, 17, 14, and 13. Sarah H. Norris, age 71, also resided with them. The value of his real estate was listed at $200,000 and personal property at $40,000. “Schedule 2. Slave Inhabitants” lists 45 slaves.

Multiple Locations UMCP McKeldin Library Government Documents SU Docs X: Reference


- The journal records the matters considered by the House, the votes, and other actions taken. Transcriptions of debates are not included.


UMCP HBK Maryland Room Maryland Rare Stacks E445.D6 U55 1862

- Co-authoring with John B. Steele of New York, Calvert submits a minority report against the passage of the bill that would abolish slavery in the District of Columbia. He cites the following reasons: that Congress lacks the constitutional power to establish or abolish slavery anywhere, that deeds of cession from Maryland and Virginia to create the district did not convey or confer such power, and that abolition would violate property rights and additionally harm the property rights of Marylanders.


**No Known Holdings**


**National Archives and Records Administration**

The National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) is the repository for the permanently valuable records of the United States Federal Government, Presidential papers, and other historic materials.
Three letters written by Charles Benedict Calvert included in *The Destruction of Slavery. Series: Freedom: A Documentary History of Emancipation, 1861-1867, Series 1, Volume 1* (see full citation in Monographs) were found in these two national archival record groups:

- Records of the Office of the Secretary of War, 1791-1947 (Record Group 107)
- Records of the U.S. Army Continental Commands, 1817-1920 (Record Group 393)

Additional potential sources of Calvert material are:

- Records of the Office of the Secretary of the Agriculture (Record Group 16)
- Records of the Adjutant General’s Office, ca. 1775-ca. 1928 (Record Group 94)
- Records of the United States House of Representatives, 1789-1990 (Record Group 233), located at the *Center for Legislative Archives*. Calvert served in the 37th Congress and on two congressional committees: Agriculture and the District of Columbia.


UMCP HBK Maryland Room Reference CD3026 1995

Before beginning research at NARA, visit *Getting Started—First Steps*.

**State of Maryland**

*In Chancery. Charles B. Calvert and George H. Calvert, vs. Caroline Cramphin and others. T. S. Alexander, for plaintiffs; Lloyd W. Williams, for Caroline Cramphin et al.* Baltimore: Curtiss and White, 1856.

Enoch Pratt Free Library Maryland Department Reference KB588.W5C3

- The second phase of litigation between Caroline Cramphin and Charles B. Calvert and George H. Calvert, her half-brothers; detailed statement of fact by plaintiffs (in this case, the Calverts) and responses by the defendants. Exhibits include a list of vouchers submitted by Charles Benedict Calvert, including payments to lawyers Roger B. Taney and Francis S. Key for services rendered to establish the will of Thomas Cramphin.

*Laws Made and Passed by the General Assembly of the State of Maryland. By Authority. Annapolis, Md.: Requa & Wilson, Printers, 1856.*

Multiple Locations — UMCP HBK Maryland Room Maryland Stacks KFM1230.A25 1856

Maryland State Archives (January 25, 2005) *Archives of Maryland Online.*

- Chapter 97, page 114, An Act to establish and endow an Agricultural College in the State of Maryland, passed March 6, 1856.


Multiple Locations - UMCP HBK Maryland Room Maryland Stacks J87.M31

- See 1838, 1843 and 1844 for years of Calvert’s state legislative service. See 1852 (page 96), 1854 (page 603), and 1856 (index entry “Agricultural College” on page 868) for legislative history of establishment of Maryland Agricultural College.


UMCP HBK Maryland Room Maryland Stacks J87.M3 1867

- Document K, the First Annual Report of the State Superintendent of Public Instruction, includes a report of the transaction that rendered the State of Maryland joint owner of the Maryland Agricultural College for an appropriation of $45,000. Superintendent L. Van Bokkelen recommends an additional appropriation of $10,000 for the college edifice.


Multiple Locations - UMCP HBK Maryland Room Maryland Stacks J87.M32

- See 1852 (index entry “Incorporations” on page 617), 1854 (page 476), and 1856 (index entry “Agricultural College” on page 507) for legislative history of the establishment of Maryland Agricultural College.


- Litigation between George H. Calvert and Charles B. Calvert, as heirs to their father’s estate, and their brother-in-law, Charles H. Carter, in regards to the share of his deceased wife, their sister, Rosalie Eugenia.

Maryland State Archives

MSA S 512-13-9751 State of Maryland Chancery Court [Chancery Court Papers] 1846, MS 9855

- Bill, exhibits, answer for litigation between heirs of Caroline Morris, oldest sister of George H. Calvert and Charles B. Calvert, in regards to her share of her father’s estate. Properties involved in include His Lordships Kindness,
Rossburg, and Riversdale. Charles Benedict used his interest in the National Hotel as security.

MSA S 512-10-7630 State of Maryland Chancery Court [Chancery Court Papers] 1838, MS 7627
- Bill and exhibits from litigation between George Calvert, Charles Benedict’s father, and his mulatto daughter, Caroline Cramphin, over his trusteeship of the estate of her common law husband and his friend, Thomas Cramphin of Montgomery County. Charles Benedict became embroiled in later, related litigation when he became the executor of his father’s estate.

Prince George’s County Records at the Maryland State Archives

Prince George’s County Administration Accounts 1696-1902. No. 657 Charles Benedict Calvert, 1864.
- Two folders of original documents including over 50 invoices submitted to the estate of Charles Benedict Calvert for payment including bills for seeds, groceries, clothes, and books, as well as supplies for the National Hotel; many of the merchants were located in Washington. Other creditors included the Columbia Turnpike Road Co., Internal Revenue, and the Levy Court of Washington County, D.C. The final account ledger records several payments into the estate from the Maryland Agricultural College. Additional settlement activity took place in 1905, when shares of the National Hotel and the Frederickstown Turnpike Company were sold at auction and the proceeds distributed to his children. NOTE: The file is stored off-site and must be requested prior to visiting the Maryland State Archives.

Prince George’s County Circuit Court Equity Papers, 1815-1984. Case No. 125.
- Protracted litigation among Calvert family regarding the disposition of the property and estate of Rosalie Stier Calvert by her husband, George. The daughters of Rosalie and George did not receive as generous an inheritance as their brothers; their husbands filed suit on their behalf.

Prince George’s County Circuit Court Equity Papers, 1815-1984. Case No. 150.
- Charles H. Carter, the husband of Charles’ sister Rosalie, and others vs. Charles B. Calvert and Robert E. Lee; further litigation among Calvert and his siblings about the Stier-Calvert estate.

Prince George’s County Circuit Court Equity Papers, 1815-1984. Case No. 475.
- Division of the real property of Charles Benedict Calvert; file includes a plat of Riversdale with partitioned lots marked and a copy of the notice placed in the Marlboro Gazette.

Prince George’s County Circuit Court Equity Papers, 1815-1984. Case No. 500.
- George H. Calvert and Charles B. Calvert, Charlotte’s son, are appointed trustees for Charlotte A. Calvert in January 1865 because the death of her husband has left her incapable of managing her affairs. In October 1869, the
two trustees ask the Court to be relieved of their duties as Charlotte had been restored to “mental health.”

Prince George’s County Inventory, Liber WAJ No. 3, f. 203.
- **Inventory of Charles Benedict Calvert’s Estate**, June 1, 1864.

Prince George’s County Land Records, Liber CSM No. 2, f. 294.
- Sale of Land to Maryland Agricultural College, March 22, 1858, for $20,000.

Prince George’s County Wills, Liber PC No. 1, f. 89.
- George Calvert’s will, dividing his estate between George Henry and Charles Benedict Calvert (1838).

Prince George’s County Wills, Liber WAJ No. 1, f. 278.
- **Charles Benedict Calvert’s will**, written June 9, 1858, and probated May 27, 1864.

Other known land transactions to which Charles Benedict Calvert is a party:

Prince George’s County Land Records, Liber JBB No. 4, f. 671.
- Indenture for part of the tract Yarrow, executed June 3, 1836.

Prince George’s County Land Records, Liber ON No. 1, f. 41.
- Indenture for several tracts in Prince George’s and Montgomery Counties, executed June 12, 1843.

Prince George’s County Land Records, Liber JBB No. 3, f. 178.
- Indenture for part of the tract New Dumfries executed July 18, 1843.

Prince George’s County Land Records, Liber JBB No. 4, f. 457.
- Indenture for a tract in the town of Bladensburg, executed July 20, 1843.

Prince George’s County Land Records, Liber JBB No. 4, f. 459.
- Indenture of correction for transaction on the same day, executed July 20, 1843.

Prince George’s County Land Records, Liber JBB No. 5, f. 1.
- Indenture for tracts owned with brother George H. Calvert, executed November 5, 1845.

Prince George’s County Land Records, Liber JBB No. 4, f. 566.
- Transaction executed in August [?], 1846, for part of tract called “His Lordship’s Kindness.”

Prince George’s County Land Records, Liber JBB No. 5, f. 126.
- Indenture for parcels called “White’s Adventure” and “Riley’s Landing,” executed December 21, 1847[57?].

Prince George’s County Land Records, Liber JBB No. 5, f. 413.
- Indenture executed for part of “Timber Bottom,” dated November 3, 1848.

Prince George’s County Land Records, Liber JBB No. 5, f. 504.
- Indenture executed for part of “Yarrow,” dated January 9, 1849.

Prince George’s County Land Records, Liber JBB No. 5, f. 643.
- Deed of assignment for land previously owned by John Pumphrey, deceased, dated May 21, 1849.
Prince George’s County Land Records, Liber ON No. 1, f. 37.
- Indenture for several parcels, including “Timber Bottom” and “Buck Lodge,” dated October 14, 1851.

Prince George’s County Land Records, Liber ON No. 2, f. 10.
- Indenture for parcel known as “New Dumfries,” dated April 11, 1854.

Prince George’s County Land Records, Liber ON No. 2, f. 29.
- Indenture for parcel known as “Ellaville,” dated May 27, 1854.

Prince George’s County Land Records, Liber ON No. 2, f. 31.
- Indenture for parcel known as “Ellaville,” dated June 7, 1854.

Prince George’s County Land Records, Liber EWB No. 1, f. 119.
- Indenture for parcel known as “Cedar Hill,” dated March 28, 1855.

Prince George’s County Land Records, Liber CSM No. 1, f. 457.
- Indenture for tract called “His Lordship’s Kindness,” dated July 31, 1856.

Prince George’s County Land Records, Liber CSM No. 1, f. 606.
- Indenture for tracts called “White’s Adventure” and “Riley’s Landing,” dated September 22, 1856.

Prince George’s County Land Records, Liber CSM No. 2, f. 436.
- Indenture for tract called “Mount Airy,” dated August 12, 1858.

Prince George’s County Land Records, Liber CSM No. 3, f. 161.
- Indenture for part of a tract known as “Ellaville,” dated March 23, 1859.

Prince George’s County Land Records, Liber CSM No. 4, f. 220.
- Deed for part of the tract known as “Charles and Rebecca,” dated October 1, 1861.

Prince George’s County Land Records, Liber FS No. 1, f. 124.
- Deed for parcel of land known as Lot No. 6 on the Plat of Ellaville, dated January 6, 1862.

Prince George’s County Land Records, Liber FS No. 1, f. 281.
- Indenture for Lots 8 and 9 on the Plat of Ellaville, dated June 3, 1862.

Prince George’s County Land Records, Liber FS No. 1, f. 640.
- Indenture for all of Lot 7 and part of Lot 8 on the Plat of Ellaville, dated September 16, 1863.

Known Land Records to which Maryland Agricultural College (MAC) is a party:

Prince George’s County Land Records, Liber CSM No. 3, f. 544.
- Mortgage in the amount of $15,600 executed July 1, 1860, to pay MAC’s floating debt and to complete college buildings and improvements; mortgagees are Johns Hopkins, George W. Brown, and George W. Riggs. Calvert agreed to the priority of new lien over his vendor’s equitable lien still outstanding.

Prince George’s County Land Records, Liber FS No. 2, f. 569.
- Indenture on Rossburg Farm in the amount of $1,800 to John Berry of Washington, D. C., dated March 14, 1865.

Prince George’s County Land Records, Liber FS No. 2, f. 633.
• Deed dated May 6, 1865, between MAC and D. Montgomery Johns, member of the faculty, establishing a lien on MAC and all college buildings in the amount of $6,800 to cover a debt to Johns.

Prince George’s County Land Records, Liber FS No. 4, f. 556.
• Deed dated March 28, 1866, between MAC and the State of Maryland, making the State joint owner of the college for $45,000.

CONTEMPORANOUS PERIODICALS
SELECTED ANNOTATIONS

Agricultural Press

American Farmer (Baltimore, Md.)
Multiple Locations — Scattered Holdings - UMCP HBK Maryland Room Maryland Rare Folio S1.A38

• The first number of a new series is graced by a view of Cinderella, with Riversdale in the background; Cinderella’s pedigree and prize-winning history is detailed.

• Calvert writes of his “limited” experience in using root crops to improve “poverty-stricken lands,” an approach used in England. He includes plans for storing roots out of doors where no cellars are available.

• Although he takes issue with one of Calvert’s calculations on crop production, a reader responds with praise for his contribution to the previous issue.

• A description of Calvert’s “curious” twenty-foot-long, three-room traveling caravan, pulled by oxen, with cooking facility available en route.

“Reports of the Committees appointed for the purpose, To The Agricultural Society of Prince George’s County, MD. at the Annual Exhibition, held on the 14th and 15th October, 1847, at Upper Marlboro.” Vol. II, No. 7 (January 1848): 195-196.
• Prizes awarded to Calvert for cattle.

• Calvert offers a male calf to anyone who will take good care of the animal and exhibit him for 3 successive years. See also p. 209 for editorial comment on the offer.

• Calvert reports to the editors about the response to his calf offer and pledges financial support to ensure success.

“To the Editor of the American Farmer.” Vol. IV, No. 2 (August 1848): 49.
• Calvert writes to encourage Maryland agriculturists to respond positively to the invitation issued by the Mechanics’ Institute to take part in its fall exhibition. He proposes that a state “Convention of Agriculturists” be called to meet in Baltimore on September 5th to prepare for the exhibition and envisions that the State Convention might call a National Convention to further agricultural discussions.

• The American Farmer editors report on a visit that exceeded their expectations; Calvert has improved his farm with means available even to farmers not as wealthy as himself. The account includes sections titled Draining, The Mansion and Homestead, The Cow House, The Herd of Cattle, Former and Present Condition of the Arable Land, The Crops, Mills, Oaken Furniture, and The Garden.

• The convention established the Maryland State Agricultural Society, which, in turn, adopted its constitution and by-laws and appointed Charles Benedict Calvert as its first president.

• Favorable editorial comment on the appointment of Calvert to presidency of the Maryland State Agricultural Society.

• Editorial approval of the compliment paid by the Judges "appointed by the Prince George's Agricultural Society to 'award the Calvert premium.'"

• The Society passed a resolution urging members of Congress to grant a sufficient donation of public lands to Maryland "to establish and sustain an Agricultural School on the Western, and one on the Eastern Shore of this State."

"Reports of the Committees of the Prince George's County Agricultural Society." Vol. IV, No. 7 (January 1849): 225-226.
• The awarding of the first Calvert premium to the best Durham bull calf, under one year old, bred by Charles B. Calvert, made possible by his donation of male calves to members of the community who agreed to exhibit them for three years. The eleven competitors were all excellent and the judging was extremely difficult.

• In his remarks, General Tilghman credits the creation of the State Agricultural Society to Calvert, “whose superior qualifications and successful enterprise, richly entitle him to the honor of being its first President.”

“Meeting of the Managers of the Maryland State Agricultural Society.” Vol. IV, No. 7 (February 1849): 248.
• In a letter to the editor, President Calvert points out the important issues that will come before the executive committee at its next meeting, including the essay competition, the establishment of an agricultural library, and the reporting on several resolutions passed at the last meeting.

• The editors share a circular dated March 21, 1849, published by Charles Benedict Calvert, inviting all agriculturists to the suite of rooms recently established for the Maryland State Agricultural Society.

“Maryland State Agricultural Society; Baltimore, May 2d, 1849.” Vol. IV, No. 12 (June 1849): 399-402.
• Numerous society business items transacted, including the passage of resolutions introduced by Mr. J. T. Earle regarding the importance of agricultural education, memorializing Congress to provide land for that purpose, and seeking cooperation from other state agricultural societies to that same end.

“Address of the State Agricultural Society.” Vol. V, No. 3 (September 1849): 100.
• A full-page exhortation to Maryland farmers from the society’s officers to continue their support of the new society, which will “elevate still higher a calling, than which, none is more honorable.”

“Passage and Transportation to the Cattle Show.” Vol. V, No. 4 (October 1849): 122.
• Correspondence between Calvert and several railroad and steamboat companies about free transport for livestock and equipment and reduced fare for those attending the Annual Exhibition.

“Address of the Hon. Willoughby Newton, Delivered before the Maryland State Agricultural Society, at its third annual exhibition, in the City of Baltimore, October 25th, 1850.” Vol. VI, No. 6 (December 1850): 189-194.
Newton praises Calvert as having advanced the interests of American artisans and American farmers by establishing the state agricultural society; “it has constituted a new era in American agriculture.”

“Proceedings of the Third Annual Meeting of the Maryland Agricultural Society, Held in the City of Baltimore, on the 23rd, 24th and 25th, October, 1850.” Vol. VI, No. 6 (December 1850): 195-199.

- Calvert presided over the sessions that addressed a wide range of society business. On the first day, the society adopted a resolution that a committee be established to inquire into the “expediency” of establishing an agricultural college and to report back at next year’s annual meeting. During the last session, Calvert lamented the lack of public support shown to agricultural interests. When he declined to serve as president for a third term, he was unanimously re-elected.


- President Calvert presented a plan for the establishment of an experimental farm, after which the society unanimously adopted a resolution of approval and support.


- At its quarterly meeting on February 4, a series of resolutions concerning the establishment of a national agricultural department was adopted. The society’s president, Calvert, was authorized to appoint a committee to go to Washington and advocate for such a department. The meeting, sparsely attended because of inclement weather, was adjourned for two weeks. When the meeting re-convened, Calvert was absent because of sickness. Some members sought to reverse all actions taken at the earlier session. They were successful in regards to the creation of a committee to advocate in Washington, arguing that its importance required a discussion at an annual meeting.


- In the same issue, Calvert replied by letter to the editor that he found the actions taken in his absence to be a “usurpation of authority,” “not warranted by any parliamentary law,” and he would not “submit to any such dictation.” However, he suggested a compromise—that the discussion be taken up at the May meeting and that all agriculturalists read for themselves the proceedings of the February 4 meeting.


- Report on the founding of a national agricultural society at a meeting held at the Smithsonian Institute; Calvert was chosen Chairman of the Executive Committee. Afterwards, the members met with President Fillmore.

Calvert, Charles B. “How should guano and all other manures be applied?” Vol. VIII, No. 3 (September 1852): 104-106.
• In contrast to views previously published, Calvert advocates his view that manure should be kept as close to the surface as possible. He laments that there is no agricultural college or experimental farm where competing theories could be tested. The editor disagrees at great length about the methodology.

Announcement about subscriptions. Vol. VIII, No. 4 (October 1852): 129.
• Calvert requests those who have lists of subscriptions to the proposed college to hand them in at the annual meeting of the state agricultural society.

“Fifth Annual Exhibition of the Maryland State Agricultural Society.” Vol. VIII, No. 6 (December 1852): 177-179.
• Highly complimentary description of Calvert’s herd of 33 cattle—“to say that these animals were worth of their intelligent owner, is but faint praise.”

• Society president Calvert reluctantly agrees to serve one more year in that office.

• Calvert responds to an essay written by Thomas R. Hollyday on the best mode for securing corn and fodder.

• In February, the society met and adopted the resolution to memorialize Congress to establish a Department of Agriculture. Calvert spoke on behalf of the resolution.

"Note of Travel Near the Capital of the United States.” Vol. VIII, No. 11 (May 1853): 372-373.
• Extracts of an article published the same month in the Genessee Farmer (New York) about farming near Washington; Calvert’s estate is one of several profiled.

• The quarterly meeting addressed the next exhibition; Calvert moved that the Legislature be pressed for a “special act to suppress the sale of intoxicating liquors within half a mile of the show grounds...in consequence of the disorder which occurred last year.”

• The Marlboro Gazette reported that Calvert sold 200 acres (at $50 per acre) of unimproved land at Riversdale to Professor Solomon, including land known as “Spa Grove” but on the condition that the “woodman should ever spare these trees.” Spa Grove was the site of many social gatherings.
- Report of proposition to purchase Mt. Vernon (or other “suitable” place) for an experimental farm and national agricultural college; Calvert is one of three men who will appear before the New York Agricultural Society to secure support and donations.

- A drawing of a exhibition building erected on the Maryland Agricultural Society’s grounds “near this city” (Baltimore); presumably named to honor the society’s first president, Charles B. Calvert.

- At the October meeting, Calvert once again announced his intention to withdraw from the office of president but was compelled to “withdraw his intention” and was then elected unanimously.

- More detailed account of lively meeting briefly reported in November; Calvert lamented the lack of influence of farmers, criticized the state inspection of guano, and attacked the State Chemist’s plans for experimental farming as “humbuggery.” Calvert also shared a letter from F. P. Blair recommending an agricultural college and model farm located on the Baltimore railroad and staffed by Smithson professors—a better use for the money appropriated by Congress than “the trash of the Patent Office Report.”

- Coverage of special meeting called by Calvert to consider establishing an agricultural school; subscription plan adopted for the purpose of “purchasing and establishing an experimental farm within five miles of the city of the Baltimore...under the auspices of the Maryland Agricultural Society; and to be used as a permanent Show Ground, for the Annual Exhibitions of said Society.”

- At the regular quarterly meeting of the Board of Managers of the Society, a number of resolutions were passed; to seek state appropriation for endowment of a professorship, to thank the new governor for supporting agricultural interests, and to appoint a committee to develop a subscription plan and another committee to prepare material to solicit support from the public.

- The editors call attention to a proposal before the legislature to endow a professorship in the proposed college. They quote a correspondent called the
“Marlborough Planter,” who urged the representatives to “immortalize themselves” by supporting the stated wishes of the governor.

- Calvert chaired a meeting of the subscription committee formed on February 9; a stock plan was recommended to raise the funds necessary to open the college, thereby necessitating changes in the Society's charter. Two thousand shares would be issued at the price of $25 per share, for a total capital of $50,000.

- The Committee appointed to examine the essays on farm buildings awarded the premium to Calvert; the essay and an engraving will be printed in a subsequent issue.

- Calvert’s prize-winning description of his octagonal structures for cattle; the ground plan and engraving appeared in the same issue. The issue in the Maryland Room at Hornbake Library does not contain the engravings; at the National Agricultural Library, they are bound between pages 383 and 384 but not numbered themselves. Photographs of the engravings are found in the Calvert Mansion photographs folder available in the Maryland Room.

“Meeting of the Executive Committee of the Maryland State Agricultural Society; August 2, 1854.” Vol. XI, No. 3 (September 1854): 82-83.
- Resolutions include the content of the subscription list heading (addressing governance and location of proposed farm and college) and a meeting planned in Baltimore to promote their establishment.

- A lengthy address to the citizens of Maryland on the educational plan for the college, the benefits of such an education to society, and the relationship between the Society and the farm and college; authored by a committee of three appointed in March 1854 to prepare material for the public.

- The annual meeting, held over the period of several days in October, turned to “furthering the object of establishing and organizing an Agricultural College and Experimental Farm” on the evening of October 4. Rev. Stuart Robinson made remarks on the profession of farming—the only profession that preceded the existence of sin. On the next day, J. T. Earle was elected president of the Maryland Agricultural Society, ending Calvert’s tenure. A glowing resolution in Calvert’s honor was passed on October 6th. In one of the last actions, Calvert offered a resolution that Maryland Senators and
members of the House of Representatives be requested to press upon Congress the importance of establishing the agricultural school and experimental farm.

- *American Farmer* editors call attention to Calvert’s resignation and his many and important contributions and refer to “adorning our pages in due time” with the lithographic portrait called for in the Society’s resolution in his honor.

- When the committee appointed to have Calvert’s portrait taken asked him to appoint a time, he deferred to their action.

- The Executive Committee awarded $6 to Calvert for a lot of 8 pigs, 4 months old.

- A report of the annual meeting during which Calvert called for a convention of agriculturalists to “lay down their platform” because their interest had been “utterly disregarded."

- Correspondence between James Higgins, State Chemist, *American Farmer* editors, and Charles B. Calvert about the accuracy and intent of criticism of Higgins’ work recorded at the December 1853 annual meeting of the Maryland Agricultural Society.

- Recalling Rev. Robinson’s inspirational words at the November 1854 Maryland Agricultural Society Meeting, Calvert entreats farmers to achieve the same strength of purpose shown by manufacturing and commercial interests.

- Calvert is named to the committee appointed to present a memorial to the state legislature requesting $150,000 for an endowment of the Agricultural College. It was reported that few subscription lists had been handed in; the deadline was extended to August 1.

- Editorial response to Calvert’s article published in the June issue; exception is taken to the notion that other professions have conspired against agriculturists. The answer is “organization” of farmers.
- Calvert claims to agree with the editors’ response but writes that his words are the “plain pile,” not “gilded;” he writes that “all who are not for us are against us.”

- At the opening session, President James T. Earle suggested the appointment of an agent to canvas the state for subscriptions and donations for the college. In a later session, Calvert introduced a resolution that a committee petition Congress for the establishment of a national agricultural college—on the order of West Point. The resolution passed.

- The plan has languished, but there are positive steps to report. Mr. Bowie was appointed Treasurer and will canvass the state for subscriptions, and a committee will present the endowment memorial to the Legislature shortly. Extracts of a fiery speech on behalf of farmers given by A. Bowie Davis at the recent constitutional convention are also included.

- A lengthy speech articulating Calvert’s strongly held views on the profession of farming, politics, tariffs, agricultural education, and farm operations. He closes with a discussion of the importance of women in all spheres of influence and necessity: “The education of women should be equal, in every respect, to that of the men.”

“Agricultural College—Maryland Legislature.” Vol. XI, No. 8 (February 1856): 243-244.
- The Agricultural Committees of the state legislature met with the Maryland State Agricultural Society committee and gave them a “courteous and cordial reception.” The committee proposed that the Legislature make a $6,000 annual subscription towards the professors’ salaries on condition that $50,000 is raised in private subscriptions for grounds and buildings.

“Mr. Calvert’s Address.” Vol. XI, No. 8 (February 1856): 245.
- Complimentary review of Calvert’s address published in the same issue; editors not convinced of the rightness his views on tariffs.

- Excerpts of Governor’s December 1855, “Message to the Legislature of Maryland”, are printed, with particular attention called to very favorable statements about the importance of agricultural interests in the state and the value of the agricultural college now under consideration.
- Calvert advocates for a daily journal that would elevate public opinion of farming and farmers.

- Letter from a western shore farmer in support of a state agricultural college.

- The bill to establish an agricultural college passes in Maryland Senate with only two dissenting votes.

- Editors respond favorably to Calvert’s proposal.

- Sothoron finds constitutional support for the $6,000 annual appropriation sought for the agricultural college.

- The editors report that the bill chartering the agricultural college and model farm has been passed and print it in its entirety.

- A summary of legislative activities affecting farmers, including the bill that established the agricultural college.

- Calvert presented his views on the Peruvian guano trade to a Delaware state convention and was named a member of a committee appointed to entreat the President of the United States to induce the Peruvian government to remove trade restrictions. Correspondence between Calvert and Secretary of State W. L. Marcy is printed.

- First meeting of the Commissioners named in the Act chartering the agricultural college on March 25; procedures established to take subscriptions. Calvert is one of nine commissioners; Robert Bowie is hired to accept subscriptions.

- A positive report on the progress of Mr. Robert Bowie; $20,000 worth of shares have already been sold. He has been received well in Baltimore City and particularly aided by Mr. Merryman of Hayfields in Baltimore County.
- Detailed reporting of Washington, D. C. convention recommended by the Delaware convention; Calvert used the debate as a springboard to a larger goal — the establishment of a Department of Agriculture presided over by a Cabinet Minister to protect the interests of farmers.

- Correspondence related to agricultural college is printed, including the acknowledgement of W. W. Corcoran’s $1,000 donation.

- Two letters from a “Friend of Education” supporting the creation of agricultural colleges in every state.

- A detailed description of the mansion and farm; originally published in September 1857 in The Country Gentleman.

- The $50,000 in subscriptions required by the legislature has been reached; the editors exhort all farmers to contribute, as that amount represents only $1.66 per Maryland farmer. When the record of contributors is published, “It will not do to have our sons looking vainly for our names on this catalogue of honor.”

- When Robert Bowie reported his total of subscriptions to be $42,300, it was moved and ordered that several members of the Board make up the deficiency and the “sum of $50,000 was completed.”

- Although sufficient subscriptions have been purchased, short-term notes were accepted in payment. Half the subscribed funds must be on hand as cash before stockholders can elect Trustees, preventing an election at the November 17th meeting. Property must be purchased by February 1, 1858.

- Official notice of November meeting of Commissioners; they invite proposals to supply and sell a suitable farm for the college.

• Still short of cash at the December 17th meeting, the election of Trustees was postponed again. However, the goal is so close, it seems certain that elections can take place on January 5th.

• Trustees representing each Maryland county and Baltimore City were elected on January 5, 1858. Charles B. Calvert was appointed, temporarily at first, and then elected permanently as President of the Board. A committee had visited several proposed farms, and the Board chose the one offered by Calvert. The advantages of the location are detailed.

• Calvert offered a resolution that a committee be appointed to petition Congress for an appropriation to carry out soil analysis based on recent advances in chemical knowledge presented at the annual meeting.

• Report of Trustees’ activities: Calvert is a member of one committee authorized to make arrangements for the farm for the present season and another committee to select a plan for the College Building. The charter has been amended to add additional trustees and honorary members and to lower the cost of a share from $25 to $5. Singling out Corcoran for praise again, the editors exhort all Maryland farmers to show support.

• Editors report on a visit so impressive that “It might have been fancied that the Genius of the wonderful Lamp had been invoked;” lunch at Riversdale followed.

• The editors print an extract of College Register Dr. Wharton’s report pertaining to future governance of the education program of the college.

• Report on the August 24th ceremony, a simple one so as to avoid delay. Calvert’s address touched on the uniqueness of Maryland’s effort, the Senate’s abolition of its agriculture committee, a sign of larger governmental neglect, and the importance of preparing farmers to raise voices in “the halls of legislation.” Reprinted in Volume I of Agriculture in the United States: A Documentary History, edited by Wayne Rasmussen.

Annual Meeting of the Maryland Agricultural Society, October 20th, 1858. Vol. XIV, No. 5 (November 1858): 134.
• Calvert was asked to speak extemporaneously on the subject of agricultural education; he did so in “his usual forcible and convincing manner.”
“Frederick County (M.D.) Fair.” Vol. XIV, No. 5 (November 1858): 146-147.
- Calvert made an address on behalf of the State Agricultural College.

- Calvert seeks additional contributions to the agricultural college; one wing of the first building is well underway, but another $50,000 will be needed to complete it.

- Calvert and Dr. Wharton appeared in Baltimore at the Mechanics’ Institute to promote the agricultural college.

- The nearly completed building was reviewed at the Board’s last meeting; next item of business is to appoint Professors. It seems the college will open in September with “as full a number of students as it can accommodate.”

- Dr. William Newton Mercer of New Orleans made a contribution of $2,500 to the college, bringing the total amount of donations to $7,500.

- Trustee A. B. Davis forwards to the editors for publication a letter from Professor Benjamin Hallowell, future MAC president, specifying his view of a substantive educational plan for the college.

- A reader praises Hallowell’s plan but laments its exclusion of zoology and entomology—matters that could be covered in a course of fifteen or twenty lectures.

- The Board of Trustees met in July, established six professorships, and elected candidates to three of the chairs, scientific agriculture (Dr. George C. Scheiffer), Exact Sciences (Professor H. D. Gough) and ancient and modern languages (Professor Baptista Lorino). The college will open on the first Monday of October; tuition and board was set at $250.

- The editors reprint an extract of the report of the Register from the first college circular, hoping it will clarify some of the perceived confusion as to the mission of the institution.

“President of the Agricultural College.” Vol. XV, No. 6 (December 1859): 176.
- The appointment of Professor Benjamin Hallowell to the college presidency and his acceptance. The editors report that they received a private note from Mr. Calvert in which he “emphatically” states “we need not now fear that we will not have the best Institution in the world.”

- Calvert forwards to the editors an anonymous testimonial to the plans for the college.

- Calvert steps in as President of the college when ill health forces Hallowell to resign.

- The Trustees met in March. Although the college is off to an “auspicious” start, Calvert urges the Board to take action to secure a permanent replacement for him.

- Rev. J. W. Scott, D.D. was elected President of the College on April 13.

- The second circular has been published; the college has a full complement of professors.

- Professor Montgomery Johns seeks contributions of geological and mineralogical specimens.

- Professor Johns acknowledges and thanks donors who responded to his request.

- Editors are happy to commend the college to parents; the professors are able, the students diligent.

- A critical letter from an “Eastern Shoreman”; no value from the college for the public dollars expended. A derisive reference to “Maryland Nautico-Agricultural College.”

*Country Gentleman* (Albany, N.Y.)
UMCP McKeldin Library Place a Request to Obtain S1.C8
National Agricultural Library C C8 33
- A reprint of Calvert’s prize-winning essay originally published in the American Farmer.

“Mr. Calvert’s Barn.” Vol. IV, No. 17 (October 26, 1854): 262.
- Editors’ summary of one reader’s objections to Calvert’s plan.

- President since its founding, Calvert declines re-election to the Maryland State Agricultural Society presidency.

- Reader responds to editors’ summary of his objections to Calvert’s plans.

- A detailed description of the mansion and farm; reprinted in October 1857 issues of The Cultivator and American Farmer.

“Editorial Correspondence II—Maryland State Ag. College.” Vol. XI, No. 22 (June 3, 1858): 353.
- Early report on progress of Maryland Agricultural College.

“Editorial Correspondence III—Visit to Mr. Calvert’s.” Vol. XI, No. 23 (June 10, 1858): 361-362.
- Calvert’s agricultural practices.

- Although the college has suffered many setbacks, primarily because of the “disturbed political condition of the country”, the appointment of Henry Onderdonk to the Presidency represents a step forward.

- The editors report on the publication that includes a list of over one hundred students, a description of instructional design, and a comprehensive tuition charge of $250 per year. In comparison, the Michigan State Agricultural Catalogue shows an enrollment of sixty-six students, free tuition to students from Michigan, and room and board at cost.

- “…a liberal patron of every forward movement…a hospitable and high-toned gentleman.”
- A report of the 5th annual meeting; Calvert initiated a discussion of the expense of exhibitions; resolutions adopted regarding purchase of Mt. Vernon farm for national agricultural college.

- A detailed description of the mansion and farm; originally published in September 1857 in The Country Gentleman.

- A report of the 8th annual meeting; Calvert censured President Buchanan for his veto of Morrill Land bill, invited members to visit Maryland Agricultural College.

- An announcement of the second circular; the list of students now numbers 70.

- Describes farming practices of Calvert and his plans to introduce a steam-powered irrigation system.

“Volume I (1853): Calvert offered preamble and resolution that Congress be memorialized to establish a Department of the Government, to be called the Department of Agriculture, the head of which Department, when established shall be a Cabinet Officer—unanimously adopted.

“Volume III (1854): Calvert urged agriculturalists to take political action “calculated to command success” and to “determine for themselves what legislation is necessary for their protection.”
• Volume IV (1856): Calvert opposed the nomination of a “government” officer for post of society Vice President and detailed his vision of farmers seeking influence directly at the ballot box.

• Volume V (1857): Calvert defended the efforts of Marylanders to establish the proposed agricultural college and opposed appointment of a committee to establish standards of perfection for animals; it would only end in “raking together maxims from the old test books, most of which are fallacious or at least tending to error.”

*Maryland Farmer* (Baltimore, Md.)
UMCP HBK Maryland Room Maryland Rare Stacks S1.M3

“Maryland Agricultural College.” Vol. 3, No. 1 (January 1, 1866): 11-12
• Letter to the editors from N. B. Worthington, President of Maryland Agricultural College, reporting on the planned arrangement with the State of Maryland to become joint owner of the college, relieving the college of some debt, and allowing federal funds for the teaching of military tactics; a detailed account of progress in instruction.

• A committee determined that the college will resume exercises in mid-September under “new rules and regulations;” the college did not re-open until February 1867.

• New professors and a new president (General Custis Lee, who did not serve) were elected, salaries set, and the “duties of the college are to be resumed” on February 6.

“The Maryland Agricultural College.” Vol. 4, No. 3 (March 1, 1867): 82.
• Announcement of spring session; “embarrassing” difficulties have been removed, and the college now has “excellent prospects.”

“Maryland Agricultural College.” Vol. 4, No. 5 (May 1, 1867): 147.
• College suffered during the late civil war but has been reorganized; its virtues are detailed, support for it encouraged.

• A detailed history of the college and its early financial struggle; an account of the composition of the Board of Trustees and faculty. Corrections offered in the following issue.

• N. B. Worthington, who served in some official capacity at the college since its founding, offers several corrections to Warfield’s history of the college published in the previous issue.

*Rural Register* (Baltimore, Md.)
UMCP HBK Maryland Room Maryland Rare Folio S1.R81, Vol. I only
National Agricultural Library 6 R 886

  • Announcement of the opening of the college in September.

  • Report of a visit to the farm and impending selection of professors; Calvert described as a man “known to every Marylander at least, as a true man in every sense of the word—firm, uncompromising in his devotion to principle, or what he may consider the right—a man possessed in a high degree, of that rare commodity, strong common sense.”

  • Report on appointment of professors.

“Maryland Agricultural College.” Vol. I, No. 5 (September 1, 1859): 73.
  • Reminder about enrollment date. Annual charge is set at $250 -- for board, tuition, lodging, washing, fuel, and lights.

“Maryland Agricultural College.” Vol. I, No. 6 (September 15, 1859): 86.
  • Opening day set for October 5; William C. Rives of Virginia to give address.

  • Additional information on opening ceremonies; Townend Glover has been named Professor of Entomology.

  • Detailed report on the opening of the college on October 5, including list of students.

“Maryland State Agricultural College.” Vol. I, No. 9 (November 1, 1859): 139-140.
  • Further editorial reflections on the opening of the college, the importance of it to Maryland and the contribution of Calvert. “We are justly proud of the Military Academy at West Point and the Naval School at Annapolis, because they make their students ‘first in War.’ The object of the Agricultural College of Maryland is to make its students—‘first in Peace!! and first in the hearts of their countrymen!!!’” Includes remarks printed in the Baltimore American upon the opening of the college.

• Professor Benjamin Hallowell has accepted the presidency; enrollment may reach between 90 and 100 after the Christmas holidays. Calvert forwards a letter of admiration for the college’s plan.

• Resignation of President Benjamin Hallowell and appointment of Calvert.

• Visit of the members of the Maryland legislature to the college; hosted by Calvert.

• Appointment of President Colby and Professor Johns and a discussion of the curriculum.

• Reminder that new session is beginning soon. Editor Samuel Sands is a satisfied father of student.

• List of students enrolled in fall session.

• Editorial statement urging the trustees and faculty to further emphasize acquisition of practical agricultural knowledge.

• Calvert Fraternity lecture series.

Agricultural journals published in nearby states may contain additional material about Charles Benedict Calvert. Check General Resources on Periodicals for information on specific holdings.

Farmers’ Register (Va.)
Southern Planter (Va.)
The Agriculturalist (Pa.)
The Pennsylvania Farm Journal

Newspapers

Baltimore American
UMCP HBK Maryland Room Maryland Microfilm AN41.16.A4, 1857-1861

• Detailed account of speeches given and descriptions of the buildings; faculty and distinguished guests listed.
- Election of Calvert to Congress cited as the “crowning point of the triumph which has demonstrated the unshaken loyalty of the State.”

- N. B. Worthington calls the attention of the readers to the new college catalog and journal on agriculture and horticulture; copies are available. The editors included an excerpt of the journal that is an address from some of the students to Maryland farmers about the broadly designed college curriculum; they believe it compares favorably to “old and far off” institutions.

- Historically reflective article written at a time when surveyors, residing in the mansion, engaged in the process of subdividing the estate into building lots.

_Baltimore County Advocate_
- Letter to the editor from “a voter in the 5th Congressional District”; a sarcastic account of the congressional candidate nomination process that left Calvert off the ballot.

_Baltimore Sun_
UMCP McKeldin Library Periodicals Rm - Microfilm AN41.16.S8

"Dead Body of a Stranger Found." 1 December 1852: 4.
- Inquest held in Bladensburg over the body of a white man who died Friday night at Rossburg, the farm of C. B. Calvert. No marks of violence were found; the jury rendered a verdict of death by unknown causes.

- The report of several meetings at which gradual emancipation is discussed. Calvert is described as “totally opposed to emancipation.”

_Baltimore Weekly Sun_
- A description of the land owned by Calvert and recently selected for the agricultural college; its proximity to Washington “may give it some advantages in a national point of view that it might not otherwise have.”

_Daily National Intelligencer (Washington, D. C.)_
UMCP McKeldin Library Periodicals Rm - Microfilm AN29.D33

- Progress on the line of conductors is “considerable.” A successful trial was made from near Calvert’s on the previous day.

“The Sixth Congressional District in Maryland.” 4 June 1861: 3.
• Editorial approval of Calvert’s acceptance of nomination for Congress by “Union men.”

“To the Voters of the Fifth Congressional District of Maryland.” 9 October 1863: 2.
• Calvert informs the readers of deceit in the selection process of candidates for congressional service. In seeking a second term, he will continue to stand for suppression of the rebellion and re-establishment of the Union as it was.

“Maryland Politics.” 9 October 1863: 3.
• Editors ask that readers take note of Calvert’s letter published in the same edition; it “will go far to establish his claim” to “continued confidence.”

“Death of Mr. Calvert.” 13 May 1864: 3.
• Sudden death of Calvert of “paralysis” the previous day reported, seen in Washington but a “day or two ago in his usual health.”

• Calvert’s funeral will take place on this date at Riversdale at 3:00 P.M.

“Obsequies of Mr. Calvert.” 17 May 1864: 3.
• Jointly conducted by the rector of the Episcopal church in Bladensburg and the minister of the Church of Ascension in Washington, the service was attended by a “large number of sorrowing friends” who followed him to his final resting place. In the same issue appeared an advertisement previously placed by Calvert for lots for sale in Ellaville.

“Respect to the Memory of Hon. Charles B. Calvert.” 18 May 1864: 3.
• The Executive Committee of the United States Agricultural Society met on the day of the funeral to “pay some proper testimony of respect to the memory of their late Vice President.” His many contributions were noted including the following: “through his influence and indomitable energy the Agricultural College of Maryland was established, and in his death it has lost one of its most worthy founders and ardent friends.”

_Evening Star_ (Washington, D. C.)
UMCP McKeldin Library Periodicals Rm - Microfilm AN29 .S78

“Dead—Hon. Charles B. Calvert.” 13 May 1864: 3.
• Cause of death—“paralysis;” both “surprise and regret” in the community.

• History of the Stier and Calvert families, the early days of Riversdale and the connection of Henry Clay to the estate; a brief account of the 1876 auction that took place after the death of Calvert’s widow Charlotte.

_Montgomery County Sentinel_
UMCP HBK Maryland Room Maryland Microfilm AN41.64 .S4
- Calvert’s actions and motives are attacked; he has “an instinctive love of arbitrary, monarchical power.” The editors doubt he is concerned about his mulatto half-brothers and sisters, citing litigation between them.

*New York Times*
UMCP McKeldin Library Periodicals Rm - Microfilm AN53.N4T5

“The Administration and Maryland.” 9 August 1861: 2.
- A letter from Maryland Congressional Representatives, including Calvert, to President Lincoln protesting the military search of property in Baltimore County, and Lincoln’s reply. Reprinted from the *National Intelligencer*.

*Planters’ Advocate (Upper Marlboro, Md.)*
UMCP HBK Maryland Room Maryland Microfilm AN41.68.P75

- Announcement of their appointment by the Maryland Agricultural Society to attend the Georgia Agricultural Society to be held in May.

"Correspondence of the Planters' Advocate." 15 June 1853: 1.
- A report that Calvert has sold 200 acres of land near the Spa Spring to a Prussian gentleman who plans to build a "large and commodious house of entertainment." On the back page of the same issue, Calvert advertised several additional tracts of land for sale, as well as two full-bred Durham Cow Calves, and several pair of Chester pigs.

A couple in a carriage was struck by the Washington Branch Railroad train to Baltimore; a Negro man of Mr. Calvert's was killed and a free colored woman seriously injured.

“Location of the Agricultural College.” 27 January 1858: 2.
- Brief laudatory report on the selection of Mr. Calvert’s farm for the location of the agricultural college “in our county.”

- Report that there was to have been a meeting of the Board of Trustees the previous day to lay the cornerstone but no details were available.

“The Agricultural College.” 1 September 1858: 2.
- A brief report that the cornerstone had indeed been laid the previous week by Charles B. Calvert and that the “same gentleman delivered an address suitable to the occasion.”

• Attack on Calvert for support of the Lincoln government, lack of sympathy for the south, and false claims that Fugitive Slave Law is enforced.

“Mr. Calvert’s Position.” 31 July 1861: 2.
• Calvert’s service in Congress is deemed a “bold and outrageous misrepresentation” of the people; he voted to pay for federal police in Baltimore, approved new war taxes, and advocates taxation on all property.

Washington Post
UMCP McKeldin Library Periodicals Rm - Microfilm AN29.W3

• Article on the history of the “crumbling and decaying” mansion.

Other Maryland newspapers published during Calvert’s life may contain additional material about him, particularly in regard to his congressional representation of southern Maryland. Use the General Resources on Periodicals below for information on specific holdings.

Annapolis Gazette
Baltimore Clipper
Baltimore Patriot
Cambridge Democrat
Chestertown Transcript
Daily Exchange (Baltimore)
Daily Globe (Washington)
Examiner (Frederick)
Marlboro Gazette and Prince George’s Advertiser
Maryland Republican (Annapolis)
Maryland Union (Frederick)
Maryland Newsheet (Baltimore)
Niles National Register (Washington, D. C.)
National American (Bel Air)
Port Tobacco Times & Charles County Advertiser
St. Mary’s Beacon (Leonardtown)
Worcester County Shield, and Spirit of the Whig Press

General Resources on Periodicals

Multiple Locations - UMCP HBK Maryland Room Maryland Stacks S20.D4
• Self-described purpose is “description of the general content” of agricultural press and “to tell the story of rural life as seen through them.” Identifies American Farmer as the pioneer and father of American farm journalism, examines it in detail, and looks at an additional 16 representative journals.
Multiple Locations - UMCP HBK Maryland Room Maryland Reference PN4897.M33 M26 1991
- Availability of all newspapers held in Maryland as of 1990; 87 repositories listed, microfilming has continued.

UMCP HBK Maryland Room Maryland Folio PN4897.M33 N48 1989
- Catalog of Maryland newspapers preserved on microfilm available at the State Archives.

UMCP HBK Maryland Room Maryland Reference PN4897.M33 G85 1993
- Catalog of Maryland newspapers preserved on microfilm available at the State Archives.

Maryland State Archives (March 8, 2005)  *Guide to Maryland Newspapers Featuring the Newspaper Collections of the Maryland State Archives*.  

National Agricultural Library Reference Dictionaries
- This multi-volume dictionary containing photocopies of NAL’s card catalog contains more complete information about NAL’s journal holdings than its online catalog.

**MONOGRAPHS**

Multiple Locations — UMCP HBK Maryland Room Maryland Stacks JK2341.A8M35 1850
- Several references to Calvert’s view of farm labor as reported by Frederick Law Olmsted and a reference to Riversdale as a “star exhibit in this agricultural transformation.”

Multiple Locations — UMCP HBK Maryland Room Maryland Stacks E185.2.F88
- Includes three letters written by Charles Benedict Calvert to members of Lincoln Administration regarding fugitive slaves; selected from the National Archives.

Bowie, Effie Gwynn. Across the Years in Prince George’s County: A Genealogical and Biographical History of Some Prince George’s County, Maryland and Allied Farmers. Richmond, Va.: Garrett & Massie, 1947. [Reprint 1975]
Multiple Locations — UMCP HBK Maryland Room Maryland Reference F187.P9B6
- Provides citations to Prince George’s County land and probate records for Calvert family.

Multiple Locations - UMCP HBK Maryland Room Maryland Reference F181.B85 1988
- Two references to Calvert as a member of the Know-Nothing Party.

Multiple Locations — UMCP HBK Maryland Room Maryland Reference LD78.C6C36 1966
- Long considered the standard history of the University of Maryland, Callcott’s work documents Calvert’s leadership in the founding of the college.

UMCP HBK Maryland Room Maryland Rare Stacks E512.C16 1861.
- Writing shortly after his election to the 37th Congress to share his observations, Calvert criticizes Lincoln as bending to the will of rabid fanatics and calls the fugitive slave law “violently obstructed.” He is in favor of re-establishing the Union “as it was” and the Constitution “as it is,” in contrast to every other political group. He believes Maryland did well to stay out of the rebellion.

Available by Interlibrary Loan only
- Only one mention of brother Charles, but good contextual information on childhood and family life.

Multiple Locations - UMCP HBK Maryland Room Maryland Stacks F187.C5C35 1991
- The personal letters of Calvert’s mother to her family in Belgium; significant background information on Riversdale, family life, and Calvert’s childhood.

UMCP HBK Maryland Room Maryland Stacks  E512.C55 1952
- Examines the roles and actions of Maryland legislators serving in Congress at that time. Reprint of a series of articles published in the *Maryland Historical Magazine* from 1941 to 1946

UMCP McKeldin Stacks  E337.8.C597
- Includes excerpts of a letter to Calvert and one to his son referring to Calvert’s circular saw.

UMCP McKeldin Library Stacks  E605.C6 1989
- Brief mention of Calvert’s death and the reaction in the community; accounts of early Maryland Agricultural College commencement festivities and a debate in which Calvert’s oldest son participated.

UMCP McKeldin Periodicals Rm - Microfiche F194.E46
- A description of the mansion of Riversdale written when Charles Benedict was in his twenties; his agricultural heritage and Calvert family history is detailed on pages 276-284.

Multiple Locations - UMCP HBK Maryland Room Maryland Stacks  PS1251.C7Z65 1975
- Biography of Charles Benedict’s older brother scarcely mentions him but does refer to his early care of “the horses and the routine affairs of the plantation.”

UMCP McKeldin Library Stacks  HD1761.G28
- Documents Calvert’s shift from tobacco to dairy farming.

Multiple Locations — UMCP HBK Maryland Room Maryland Stacks E445.M3G89 1997

- Noteworthy for its extensive newspaper citations.


Multiple Locations — UMCP HBK Maryland Room Maryland Folio G1273.P7A8 1975

- Although compiled after the death of Charles Benedict Calvert, the atlas is a useful geographical resource. It shows the locations of his residence and of the Maryland Agricultural College; the map of the entire county shows the districts by which census data is organized. An historical sketch of the county includes a brief article on the history of the college and provides current figures, one hundred students, an annual income of $7,000, and a list of professors.


Multiple Locations - UMCP HBK Maryland Room Maryland Stacks F184.C7 1974

- See Chapter 11, “The Urban Impact on Agricultural Land Use: Farm Patterns in Prince George’s County, Maryland 1860-1880,” by Donald McCauley for mention of Calvert’s farming practices and Chapter 15, “Political Nativism: The Maryland Know-Nothings as a Case Study,” by Jean Baker for background information on the political party to which Calvert turned in the 1850s.


UMCP McKeldin Library Stacks JK611.L5 1972

- Calvert’s leadership role is well-documented in this thorough discussion of the history of the Department of the Agriculture.


UMCP HBK Maryland Room Maryland Stacks F187.P9M3

- The bulk of the publication is Eugenia Calvert Holland’s definitive article on Riversdale that appeared in the *Maryland Historical Magazine* Vol. 45, No. 4 (December 1950): 271-293. Some additional material.


A genealogy of the Norris family, into which Charles Benedict Calvert married. His wife’s father was born in Harford County and moved to Baltimore, where he became a prosperous merchant.

Olmsted, Frederick Law. *A Journey in the Seabord Slave States: With Remarks on Their Economy*. New York: Mason Brothers, 1856. UMCP HBK Maryland Rare Stacks F213.05 1856
- Olmsted began his journey at Riversdale and provided a detailed account of Calvert’s agricultural efforts.

- Annotated version of letter printed in the *New York Daily Times*, February 16, 1853, about Olmsted’s visit to "Mr. C.’s" farm, which appears in longer form in *A Journey in the Seabord Slave States: With Remarks on Their Economy*.

- Details Calvert’s relationship with slave Adam Plummer and describes the reaction at Riversdale to his death in 1864. [Note: In 2003, a journal written by Plummer was donated by a descendant to the Smithsonian Institution’s Anacostia Museum and Center for African American History and Culture.]

- An easy-to-read format of the Population Schedules of 1850; it lists Calvert on page 8, profession “farmer,” at age 41, his wife at age 33, and his children at ages 10, 8, 7, 4, and 3. The value of his real estate was listed at $125,000.

- Reprint of *American Farmer, September 1858*, article on the founding of Maryland Agricultural College included in Volume I, pages 585-587.

- A description of the graves of Calvert, his parents, and his son who died in infancy. Calvert’s epitaph is “Blessed are the merciful for they shall obtain mercy.”
Multiple Locations — UMCP Maryland Room Maryland Stacks  F189.R52R5
- Good overview of the historical significance of Calvert and Riversdale. Includes excerpts from significant articles in *American Farmer* and *Country Gentleman*.

UMCP HBK Maryland Room Maryland Stacks  F189.R52 R578 1996

UMCP HBK Maryland Room Maryland Folio F187.P9S86 1984
- Relies on Ridgely’s book for description of grave and acknowledges a confusion over Calvert’s date of birth [listed in various places as August 23rd, August 24th, and August 28th]; on the same page, also lists the grave site of his sister, Rosalie Eugenia, at her home, Goodwood.

Multiple Locations — UMCP HBK Maryland Room Maryland Reference  F189.B1S3 1971
- Chapter XXXI, “The Telegraph,” includes a brief mention that the first transmission took place at a point across from the entrance of Riversdale.

UMCP HBK Maryland Room Maryland Reference & Stacks  F181.S31 1967
- Primary focus on Calvert’s political career and congressional record.

UMCP McKeldin Library Stacks  S533.T837 1980
- Reprints of U. S. Department of Agriculture Miscellaneous Publications no. 36 and 251 (the latter also known as the True report). Documents Calvert’s role in the establishment of the agricultural department; also details founding and early years of Maryland Agricultural College.

- Documents newspaper coverage of contemporaneous events during the years 1695-1861 with several mentions of Calvert. Includes bibliographies of Prince George’s County history.


- Discusses Riversdale’s historical significance; includes full page reproduction of Calvert’s photograph taken by Matthew Brady.


- The Maryland congressional delegation, including Calvert, resists rising abolitionist forces.

**DISSERTATIONS & THESES**


- Few references to Calvert but valuable contextual information on the planter-dominated county.


- Numerous references to Calvert, both his leadership in agricultural education and his own agricultural pioneering.


- Studies the many agricultural movements, of interest because “Mr. Calvert and his Maryland State Agricultural Society were intimately associated with them all.”
ARTICLES


UMCP McKeldin Library Periodical Stacks S1.A16

- Cites Calvert’s staunch support of a federal agricultural department and appointment to the United States Agricultural Society’s committee on the issue.


Multiple Locations - UMCP HBK Maryland Room Archives, University Publications UPUB A44.002

- Most definitive statement of Calvert’s association with Morse’s invention.

The following series of articles by Charles Branch Clark appeared in the Maryland Historical Magazine during the years 1941 to 1946. They were published in book form as well in 1952. They are listed below in chronological order.

“Politics in Maryland During the Civil War.” 36 (September 1941): 239-262.
“Politics in Maryland During the Civil War—Maryland in the Special Session of Congress, July 1861.” 36 (December 1941): 381-393.
“Politics in Maryland During the Civil War.” 37 (June 1942): 171-192.
“Politics in Maryland During the Civil War—The State Election of 1861.” 37 (December 1942): 378-399.
“Politics in Maryland During the Civil War—Unionist Domination, November 1861- November 1864.” 38 (September 1943): 230-260.
“Politics in Maryland During the Civil War.” 40 (September 1945): 233-241.
“Politics in Maryland During the Civil War—Slavery and Emancipation in Maryland, 1861-1865.” 40 (December 1945): 295-309.
“Politics in Maryland During the Civil War—Slavery and Emancipation in Maryland, 1861-1865.” 41 (June 1946): 132-158.

Multiple Locations - UMCP HBK Maryland Room Maryland Stacks F176.M18


Multiple Locations - UMCP HBK Maryland Room Archives, University Publications UPUB A44.002

- Feature article on Charles Benedict Calvert.


UMCP McKeldin Library Periodical Stacks E11.S625
A methodological examination of how archaeologists convey information to the general public about their work; the author uses Riversdale Mansion as a case study, presents a brief article about it for publication, and then critiques it. In the article, the author discusses the role of slavery in the construction and operation of Riversdale and Olmsted’s visit to the Calvert plantation.


*Multiple Locations - UMCP HBK Maryland Room Maryland Stacks  F176.M18*

- The definitive history and description of Riversdale, including interior pictures and drawings.


*Multiple Locations - UMCP HBK Maryland Room Maryland Stacks  F176.M18*

- Documents Calvert’s agricultural society leadership and farming methods.


*UMCP McKeldin Library Periodical Stacks S1.A16*

- Thorough discussion of Calvert’s role in establishment of college.

**NEWSLETTERS**

*News and Notes from Prince George’s County Historical Society.*  UMCP HBK Maryland Room Maryland Folio F187.P9 P74

- Article on Frederick Law Olmsted’s visit to Riversdale and a lengthy excerpt from Olmsted’s book *A Journey in the Seaboard Slave States*.

- A comparative look at holiday experiences of the Calvert and Plummer families of Riversdale.

*The Riversdale Letter.* Riversdale Historical Society, Inc. 1982-.  
*UMCP HBK Maryland Room Marylandia uncataloged serials*


- Map drawn by surveyor William Sides, now hanging in the Maryland Room in Hornbake Library, was commissioned by
Calvert and donated to the University of Maryland by Calvert’s
great-granddaughter.

Callcott, Margaret Law. “Slave Housing at Riversdale.” Volume 11, Number 47, Fall 1994.
- A description of a Riversdale slave cabin using Nellie Arnold
  Plummer’s book, Out of the Depths or The Triumph of the Cross,
as a source.

Callcott, Margaret Law. “Slave and Slave Families at Riversdale.” Volume 15, Number 55, Fall 1996.
- Analysis using primary and secondary sources of information
  about slaves at Riversdale from 1806 to 1860.

- A summary of Charles Benedict Calvert’s older brother’s will
  probated in 1889; Charles’ children were major personal
  property beneficiaries.

- This two-part series focuses on Calvert’s famous octagonal cow
  barn.

- Descendant of Adam Plummer, Calvert’s slave, describes the
  relationship between the two men. [Note: In 2003, a journal
  written by Plummer was donated by a descendant to the
  Smithsonian Institution’s Anacostia Museum and Center for
  African American History and Culture.]
PHOTOGRAPHS

University of Maryland
Photograph Holdings of the Archives and Manuscripts Department:

Calvert Estate
- Photographs of etchings that appeared in American Farmer: Ground plan of farm buildings, Cinderella, Calvert’s prize cattle, and cattle building.

Calvert Mansion (2 folders)
- Seven black and white snapshots of the front and back of Riversdale, taken in the 20th century. Four 8X10 black and white photographs of the front of the mansion and one of a cannon, apparently taken in the 1950s.

  - Reproduction of Brady photograph.

Library of Congress, Prints and Photographs Division

Historic American Buildings Survey.
  - Baltimore House, 4811, Riverdale Road, Riverdale, Prince George’s County, MD. HABS, MD,17-RIV,1-. Images available at http://memory.loc.gov/pp/hhquery.html, search term “Riversdale.” (6 March 2005.)
  - Baltimore House, Dependency, 4811 Riverdale Road, Riverdale, Prince George’s County, MD. HABS, MD,17RIV,1A-. 1995 black and white drawings of Dependency, the only surviving ancillary building at Riversdale.

Pictorial Archives of Early American Architecture (PAEAA)
  - Organized by state and county, this collection contains photographs and negatives of seventeenth through nineteenth century buildings, primarily taken in the 1930s. The Prince George’s County, Maryland, file contains eleven black and white photographs of the exterior of Riversdale Mansion.

The photograph collection includes the following:

Folder 0121: Etching, dated in the 1880s, of the Riversdale Mansion gate lodges at Route 1

Folder 0126: Reproduction of Matthew Brady’s photograph of Charles Benedict Calvert

Folders 0135 & 0136: Pictures of McAlpine, the home of Charles Baltimore Calvert, Calvert’s son, built on his portion of Riversdale property

Folder 0138: Picture of the letter from Henry Clay to Charles Benedict Calvert
  o In the letter, dated July 19, 1850, Clay envies Calvert “the pleasant breezes of Riversdale.” Excerpts of the letter are published in The Papers of Henry Clay, Vol. 10. See full citation in Monographs. The whereabouts of the original letter are unknown.

Folder 0659: Reproduction of etching of “Cinderella,” Calvert’s prize cow

WEB RESOURCES

  • Search on “Charles B. Calvert” and “C. B. Calvert,” and select “match this exact phrase” from the drop-box menu to see seven items in the collection; three are letters from Calvert to Lincoln expressing his concerns about fugitive slaves.


Historic American Buildings Survey.
  • Baltimore House, 4811, Riverdale Road, Riverdale, Prince George’s County, MD. HABS, MD,17-RIV,1-. Images available at http://memory.loc.gov/pp/hhquery.html, search term “Riversdale.” (6 March 2005.)

Town of Riverdale Park, Maryland, (July 7, 1999) *Town History, 1800-1899.*


University of Maryland, University Archives (February 23, 2005) *University of Maryland A to Z: MAC to Millennium.*
  * Links to reproduction of Brady photograph.

**UNPUBLISHED DOCUMENTS**

*University of Maryland*
UMCP HBK Maryland Room

Marylandia, Vertical Files, Bio-C, Charles Calvert III:
  * Folder includes a newspaper article on Charles Benedict’s “neglected grave,” articles on both ancestors and descendants of Charles Benedict Calvert and speech given by Susan Pearl upon Charles Benedict Calvert’s induction into the Prince George’s County Hall of Fame, April 22, 1982.

Marylandia, Vertical Files, Historic-Houses, Prince George’s County, Riversdale:
Riversdale Historic House Museum


- Historical treatise on the mansion and surrounding estate, its construction and evolution through the years of Calvert family’s ownership and beyond; supported by extensive citation of primary material.

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

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At the Riversdale Historic House Museum, Edward Day, Director, and Jill St. John, Registrar, shared their enthusiasm and materials on Charles Benedict Calvert.

Thomas Mann, Reference Librarian at the Library of Congress, provided an excellent introduction to its vast holdings and mapped out a plan for my work at LOC.

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Malissa Ruffner
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