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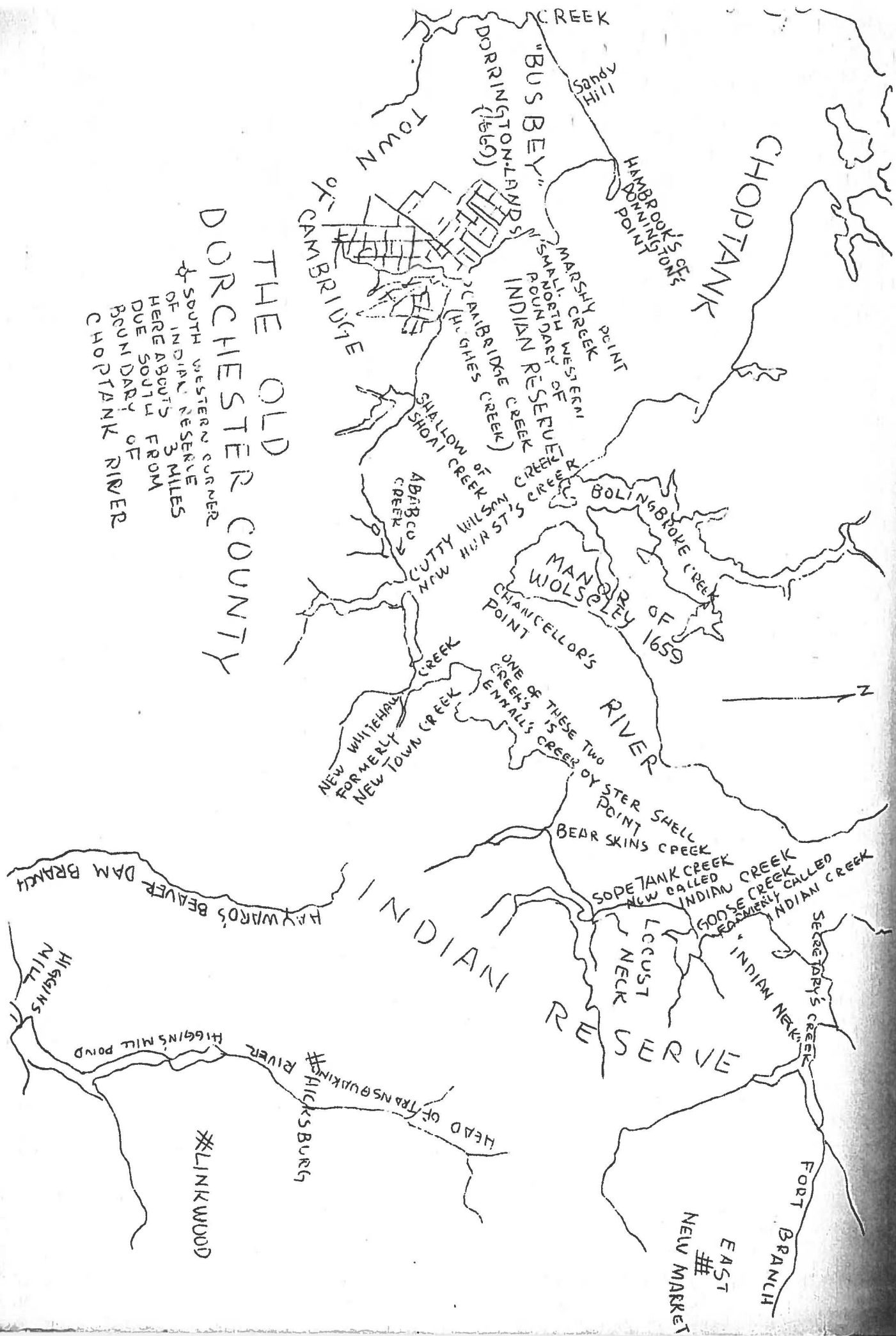
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by William B. Marye

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PART TWO: THE CHOPTANK INDIANS

In my two earlier papers I presented certain data concerning an Indian path called by white people the Choptank or Delaware Path, which, so it was said, connected Sandy Hook, the site of the town of New Castle, with the Choptank and Nanticoke Indian towns of the southern parts of the Eastern Shore of Maryland. It seems obvious to me that something should now be said about the numbers and the situation of these towns, so far as these can be ascertained.

My present paper has to do principally with the towns of the Choptank Indians; but other data relative to these Indians will also be offered, which, it is hoped, will be not without interest to my readers.

It is likely that there was little, if any, difference in race and custom, between the Nanticokes and the Choptanks, although the local historian and antiquarian would be hard pressed to find anything more substantial than impressions and intuitions to back up this statement. Of interest, however, in this connection, if by no means decisive, is the fact that Christopher Nutter, a prominent white man who resided on the Eastern Shore in the latter part of the seventeenth century, acted as official interpreter for the English in their intercourse both with the Choptanks and with the Nanticokes (Maryland Archives, Vol. V, p. 29; Vol. VII, p. 39; Vol. VIII, pp. 526, 555, 556).^{*} Hatsawapp and Tequassino, Choptank Indian Kings, are described (1679) as being subjects of the Emperor of Nanticoke (Maryland Archives, Vol. XV, p. 260). In 1681, however, Ababco, one of the three Indian Kings then ruling over the Choptanks, alleged to the Maryland authorities that he and his Indians had been solicited by the Emperor, to join with him in a war on the English, and that he had declined this offer (Ibid., p. 359). Hatsawapp, Ababco and Tequassino were requested by the English (1676) to act as mediators between them and Unacocassimon, the then Emperor of Nanticoke (Ibid., pp. 142, 143). Tequassino is shortly thereafter mentioned as a Nanticoke "great man" (Ibid., p. 145). He claimed (1681) to have kindred at Nanticoke (Maryland Archives, Vol. XVII, p. 77). Netaughwoughton, son of King Ababco, and Tequassino, described as two chief men of the Nanticoke Indians, were consulted by the English (1693) as to the election of an Emperor of the Nanticokes (Md. Archives, Vol. VIII, p. 526); and at the same time a treaty with the Nanticoke Indians was made. This treaty included the Choptanks.

^{*}A certain Nicholas Hackett also (1683) acted as interpreter for the Choptanks (Md. Archives, Vol. XVII, p. 229).

The habit of taking English names appeared early among the Choptanks. A son of Tequassino was known as Robin Hood (1681) - (see Md. Archives, Vol. XV, p. 413).^{*} Of this custom we shall note numerous examples of later date, some of them amusing.

Captain John Smith, in his famous voyage to the head of Chesapeake Bay, did not, it would appear, explore the River Choptank. On his well known map which illustrates this voyage, we find the River Rapahanock, the mouth of which lies between the Indian town of Ozinies (on Chester River?) and the mouth of the River Kuskarawaock. The historian Bozman identifies the last named river with the Nanticoke, and this author has found additional evidence to confirm this theory, but this need not now detain us. There is no reasonable doubt that the Kuskarawaock is correctly identified. The Rapahanock, Smith tells us, lay above but "neere unto" the Kuskarawaock. His map shows the mouth of the Rapahanock as opposite to the mouth of the Patuxent, a fact which no doubt led Bozman to identify this river with the Honga. The Honga River opens up into Hooper's Straits, which lie opposite a point some little distance below the mouth of the Patuxent. These straits also afford an entrance into the Nanticoke. Smith's map shows the Rapahanock as having an independent mouth or entrance. It may be, therefore, that the Rapahanock was really the Choptank. Since Smith probably did not explore this river and tells us nothing of the people inhabiting it., this question is interesting only on account of the name. Regarding Smith's Indian names for our rivers I always have the feeling that he may not have heard the true names from the local Indians, or else, knowing none at all, may have borrowed a name from Virginia. Be that as it may, it is most unlikely that the Indians who inhabited the river which we called the Choptank knew their river by this name, until white people began so to call it. It was known to white men as the Choptank as early as 1652, for under this name it is mentioned in the treaty made with the Susquehannocks in that year (Maryland Archives, Vol. lll, p. 277). It is a fair surmise that Indian traders took the name of a place on this river and gave it to the river itself. It should be remembered that white settlers did not arrive in this river until 1658 or thereabouts; so that this usage is not to be attributed to them or to the surveyors who laid out their lands, but is undoubtedly earlier.

So far as my knowledge goes, the earliest extant record in which the word "Choptank" occurs, is the deposition of a certain Thomas Youall, of Kent Island, taken May 20th, 1640 (Maryland Archives, Vol. V, pp. 189-190). The deponent declares that "he hath been oftentimes a trading with the said Capt: Claibirne" (Captain William Claiborne, owner of the Kent Island trading-post, "and one tyme especially himselfe and four other men in the Shallopp Start have beene sett on by 300 or 200 Indians at Choptanck like to be

^{*}Robin Hood was the name of a Choptank Indian in 1742 (Md. Archives, Vol. XXVIII, p. 265).

taken by them, unlesse God had wonderfully delivered them." The context shows that this event took place later than July, 1634. The Indians from whom Youell and his companions thus so narrowly escaped, were doubtless, for the most part, if not all, of the people known to history as the Choptanks. Choptank was probably the name of one of their towns and a place where the English went to trade, being situated on their river. In a letter of December 18, 1936, Dr. John L. Swanton, of the Bureau of American Ethnology, comments as follows on the subject of this Indian word:

"Choptank is an Algonquin work Dr. Michaelson tells me there is no doubt that it refers to a place, because it has a locative ending, and therefore I am inclined to think that the name of the town preceded the use of Choptank for the river. Sopetank might well be another form of the same word . . ."

It had occurred to me that "Sopetank", the name of the creek now called Indian Creek, which formed one of the boundaries of Locust Neck, where Locust Neck Indian Town was situated, might be a form of "Choptank". I referred the question to Dr. Swanton and this was his answer. Perhaps it was on Indian Creek, formerly Sopetank Creek, that the supposed town of Choptank was located.

Assuming that the Indians who attempted to board the Shallop Start and to do away with her crew were Choptanks, we find no other record of this people earlier than one of 1659. This last has, until recently, escaped notice. On July 29th, 1659, Governor Josias Fendall concluded a treaty with certain Indian peoples of the Eastern Shore of Maryland (Maryland Archives, Vol. iii, pp. 362, 363). These Indians, and the chiefs or great men who signed the treaty on behalf of them, are named, respectively, as follows:

Tatacoughkow, on behalf of the Indians of Transquakin.
Nawigkough, for the Indians of Rasoughteick & Tetuckough.
Tequassin, for the Indians of Quowaughkutt.
Zakowan, for the Indians of Monopenson.

The Indians first named are identifiable as a group or "town" of the Choptanks. For proof the reader is referred to a deed bearing date May 10, 1686, whereby Ababco, "King of the Natives of Indians of the Lower Town or Nation of Indians in Choptank River . . . called in my Language Transquakines", conveys to John Kirk a parcel of land out of the Indian Reserve on Choptank River (see Appendix, where this deed is quoted in full).

Having established the fact that the Indians of one Choptank town were parties to this particular treaty, it is permissible to expect to find others of the same people taking part, since there is every reason to suppose that the Choptanks had more than one town

at this time. I, myself, feel pretty well assured that Tequassin, who signed this treaty for the Indians of Q uowaughkutt, was none other than that Tequassino, one of the three Choptank "kings" whom we shall find active a decade later.

Monoponson was the Indian name for Kent Island (See Narratives of Early Maryland, Clayton C. Hall, Editor, pp. 88, 89, 446, and frontispiece, Map of Maryland by T. Cecill, 1635). It is by no means certain that the "Monoponson" Indians were living on Kent Island at this date (1659). If these were originally Kent Island Indians, it seems not unlikely that, after white people had fully possessed themselves of this island, they moved away. Possibly they were living among the Choptanks.

The Indians of Rasoughteick and Tetuckough remain unidentified, unless they too were Choptanks. The last name bears a striking resemblance to that of the chief of the Transquakin Indians.

As it has already been stated, white settlers arrived in Choptank River about 1658. Various tracts of land were soon taken up where the Choptank Indians had their towns and hunting grounds. These lands included: "Ricarton", 1659; "Eaton's Point", 1663; an unidentified tract of land surveyed for Jerome White; "Indian Neck" and "Darby", 1664; "Genney Plantation", 1665; and "Calfe Pasture", 1666. All of these lands fell within the bounds of the "reserve" granted to these Indians in 1669. If the Maryland Assembly had not acted in their behalf, though somewhat tardily, complete expropriation of all their lands would have been the lot of the Choptank Indians.

Early in May, 1669, the Council of the Province of Maryland received a message from Ababco, Tequassino, Hatsawap and "the rest of the Kings upon the Eastern Shore near Choptank." These Indians recall the fact that they are in league with Maryland (does not this refer to the treaty of 1659?). They claim credit for delivering up to the English the murderer of Captain John Odber and other Indians of the hostile Wickamiss nation. They declare that they have never sold any land to the English, nor given them permission to settle on the south side of Choptank River higher up than William Stevens' Creek; that nevertheless the English encroach on their lands and "even sitt down amongst them in their clear Fielüs". They desire that land be reserved for them on the south side of Choptank River from William Stevens Creek "as high up as Secretary Sewall's Creek" (Maryland Archives, Vol. 11, p. 196). Sewall's Creek now goes by the name of Warwick River; but it has not been many years since the earlier name fell into disuse. I have not been able to identify the creek called William Stevens' Creek. Since it is practically certain that the Indians demanded a greater river

frontage than they actually received, I see no reason to doubt that William Stevens Creek lies farther down the river than the westernmost limits of the Indian Reserve. The first creek of any consequence below these limits and on the same side of the river is Jenkins Creek. There is some reason to believe that Jenkins Creek may be identical with William Stevens Creek (see Appendix). At all events, had the Indians' demands been fully granted, their reservation would certainly have included Sandy Hill, a sandy bluff and elevation on Choptank River between Hambrook's Point and the mouth of Jenkins Creek. Great numbers of Indian artifacts of a very high quality have been found buried at Sandy Hill, and human bones may be picked up any time at this place. It is probably the "Sandy Point," two miles from Cambridge, where Henry C. Mercer discovered an Indian ossuary in 1892.* Mercer describes the site as a yellow bluff capped with sand dunes, by the river, a description which seems to fit Sandy Hill very well. But if Sandy Hill and Sandy Point are one and the same place, as I believe they are, there is no truth in Mercer's statement that the land thereabouts was sold by the "Nanticokes" to white people about 1722, and the implication that up to this time it had been the site of an Indian town is likewise without foundation. Sandy Hill never formed part of the Indian Reserve, but lies within the old tract of land called "Busby", and has belonged to white people since 1659. One wonders if, in attempting to prevent the settlement of the English above William Stevens' Creek (Jenkins Creek?) the Indians had Sandy Hill in mind, or if, at that time, the dead who lay buried there had been totally forgotten.

On May 7, 1669, a "League of Peace" between the Province of Maryland and the Choptank Indians was drawn up, wherein it was specified, that there should be reserved to these Indians "all that land lyeing and being on the south side of Choptank River Bounded Westerly by the freehold of William Dorrington And easterly with the Creeke falling into the said River of Choptanke commonly by the English called or knowne by the name of Secretary Sewalls Creeke for breadth and from the said River side three miles into the woods for length," to be held by Ababco, Hatsawap and Tequassino and their subjects and heirs forever. It was provided also that a league be made with the Mathwas (Delaware) Indians in which the said three Indian kings and their subjects should be included. (Maryland Archives, Vol. 11, p. 200). This reserve was formally granted to these chiefs October 14th, 1671, in consideration of a yearly rent of six beaver skins. (State Land Office, Annapolis, Md., Chancery Proceedings, Liber C.E., 1668-1671, folio 442; see also in this connection Maryland Archives, Vol. 11, p. 378, where the matter of granting this land as per Act of Assembly is debated).

*I have to thank Mr. Crozier for making me a copy of Mercer's monograph, "Exploration of an Indian Ossuary on Choptank River, Dorchester County, Maryland."

The Choptank Indians had not been long in possession of their reservation, when they began to sell it off in lots to white people. I have included herewith copies or abstracts of a number of these Indian deeds, which are recorded at Cambridge, Maryland, among the land records of Dorchester County (see "Appendix").* Within three or four decades they disposed of a large section of the lower part of their reserve bounding on Choptank River and much of the back lands. At the same time several white persons took up lands which impinged upon the southern parts of the reservation. Among these lands were "Entrim", for Patrick Harrod, 1680, "Taylor's Hermitage", for Major Thomas Taylor, and (in part) "The Guift", for John Foster, 1684 (see Calvert Papers, 385, folio 332; Scharf Papers, Maryland Historical Society, Dorchester County land papers, Lands within the Indian Line. Lands which lay within the Nanticoke Indian lines have been excluded). In 1694 the Choptank Indians made formal complaint that Major Thomas Taylor had encroached on the land given them to live on (Maryland Archives, Vol. XX, p. 225). A few years later, July, 1698, Nicanoughtough, who is described as "a Choptank Indian above Cambridge", with five of his "great men", appeared and made complaint to the Maryland Assembly, that Major Taylor, Henry Thomas and John Anderson (Anderton?) and three more (white men) had plantations on his land (Md. Archives, Vol. XXIII, p. 246). He was probably that Netaughwoughton, who is mentioned as being a son of King Ababco (see above). Meanwhile there was probably a more or less steady decline in the numbers of these Indians. One of the causes of this decline was due to the fact that in the latter part of the seventeenth century the Choptank Indians occupied a position on a frontier with respect to hostile tribes which dwelt to the north of them. At the time of the signing of the treaty of 1669 (see above; reference covers this) they were supposed to be menaced by Delawares (Minquas), who had formed an alliance with the remnants of the Wickamisses. But their principal Indian enemies in these years were the Five Nations ("Senecas"), or Northern Indians, who made prisoners of the Choptanks and carried them off, probably for the purpose of adoption. In 1683 some fourteen Choptanks, held prisoners by the Northern Indians, were returned to their homes on the intervention of the Provincial authorities; but others seem to have been retained (Maryland Archives, Vol. XVII, pp. 229, 230). About this time a daughter of King Ababco was released. But disease, no doubt, took a much greater toll than capture. In 1698 the Choptank Indians reported that "about one hundred men of them are dead on the Eastern Shore" (Maryland Archives, Vol. XXIII, p. 247). In this case "men" must be intended to mean simply individuals of both sexes; otherwise we can not account for the fact that the "Grim

*Among these abstracts is not included a deed for a large tract called "Ennalls' Out Range", which the Choptank Indians sold to Henry Ennalls, January 18th, 1726 (See Abstracts of Deeds, Dorchester County, Md., Liber D.C. No. 1, pp. 34, 424; Ibid., Liber 4, p. 508; Ibid., Liber 5, p. 608). This long, rambling tract of land was situated in the outer back parts of the Indian reserve.

Reaper" spared the women. If it was a case of a war, we should have heard more about it, and it is doubtless the record of a pestilence. If the number of victims was correctly reported, the Choptank towns could scarcely have contained less than three hundred inhabitants at this time; but estimates of this kind are, of course, a hit and miss affair. However this may be, this report was certainly expected to be more or less credible. We do not report the loss of one hundred, if most people know that we number no more than this. On June 6, 1719, Tom Bishop (an English name later a favorite among the Choptanks) complained to the Maryland Assembly on behalf of the Choptank Indians, using an interpreter, that the English encroached greatly upon the lands of his people "at Choptank", "so that they are now driven into a small, narrow neck called Locust Neck" (Maryland Archives, Vol. XXXI, p. 312). This is the first we hear of these Indians' huddling together in Locust Neck, one of their earliest known abodes, and their final abode in Maryland, where a few descendants were still living more than a century later. In October, 1723, the Maryland Assembly took up the matter of the Choptank Indian lands (Maryland Archives, Vol. XXXI, p. 572). It was decided that no leases made by these Indians should continue longer than seven years; that the persons (English) who have obtained these leases, shall be obliged to pay the rents contracted for; that the Choptank Indians shall not in future sell or lease any land under any pretense whatever; that all leases and sales made since November, 1721, shall be void, with proviso to make good and valid all surveys and purchases already made since November, 1721, of lands "which lie to the westward of Bear Skin Creek* and to the southward of the Indians' bounds as they were heretofore laid out". In the year 1725, the Assembly, again taking up the matter of Indian lands, took cognizance of several facts relating to the Choptank Indian reserve of 1669: they find that but a small part of "that large tract" is left for the Indians to plant corn on, either because of sales, leases or other encroachments. Mention is made of land claimed by Major Nicholas Sewall (see "Appendix"). The Assembly deplores the fact that the chiefs are deluded by the use of intoxicants into selling their land (Maryland Archives, Vol. XXV, p. 247). Although, after this, we still hear of complaints of English encroachments (Maryland Archives, Vol. XXVI, p. 388: 1744), the few surviving Choptanks remained secure in their lands, which, at the last, amounted to about six thousand acres (see later) out of a tract which originally contained close to fourteen thousand (see copy of resurvey of 1707, "Appendix"); but as these Indians diminished in number the "itch" among interested persons to get hold of the still considerable body of land which they held in common, must have grown in proportion. In 1755 the Choptanks are described as "reduced to a small number, chiefly old crippled or sickly", a description which undoubtedly reflects, not a high infant mortality or lack of fecundity, but

*See accompanying map; also deed, 1705, Winnicaco et al. to Wm. Seward ("Appendix").

emigration to the North. (Md. Archives, Vol. XXXI, p. 84). In 1759 the Choptank Indians presented a petition to Governor Horatio Sharpe, describing themselves therein as the "Heard Swamp" (corruption of Hatsawap, name of a former "King"), "Babco" (Ababco) "and Other the Indians and all our Brother Indians" (Md. Archives, Vol. XXXI, pp. 355, 356.). They are, so they say, "a scattered Remnant of a confused Nation", "which we are now the Antients of for as there is but a few of us Remaining nay even But a handfull of us but few Young men and Women". "When there were great numbers of us Indians & but few white people", they remark, "we enjoyed our Priviledges". They complain of not having enough land "for Bread"; of white people seeking to defraud them of their lands and destroying their hunting cabins. They present several belts of peake, evidence of the survival of one of their ancient arts and customs. In a letter addressed to Lord Baltimore, August 8th, 1754, Governor Sharpe advises that the lands of the Choptank and Nanticoke Indians be erected into proprietary manors, in anticipation of the time, which Sharpe believed to be then not far distant, when these lands would revert to his Lordship with the passing away or the emigration to foreign parts of the last of these Indians," as these Indians may possibly in a few years be no more"; but points out that until they are no more, the proposed manors may not be leased out to tenants (Correspondence of Governor Sharpe, Md. Archives, Vol. VI). In July, 1767, Sharpe wrote to Col. Henry Ennalls and Charles Dickinson, of Dorchester County, requesting them to go to the "chief men" of the Nanticoke and Choptank Indians and to confer with them about the matter of selling their lands on Nanticoke and Choptank Rivers, in order that they might depart the Province (Maryland Archives, Vol. XXXI, pp. 209, 210). "This will be presented to you", so runs his letter, "by some Indians who formerly lived in this Province but have for some years resided at a place called Otsiningo near the head of Susquehannah having been incorporated with the Six Nations several of whom now accompany them in order to give an Invitation to the Indians that still remain at Locust Neck and on Nanticoke. They allege that the Indians at Locust Neck and on the Nanticoke sent lately to their Brethren of the Six Nations to come for them and carry them back so that they may all live together and be one People and expect to find them willing and ready to go in case they may be permitted to sell their Right to the Lands which they hold in Somerset and Dorchester Counties by Virtue of Grants from the Lord Proprietary and Sundry Acts of Assembly." Governor Sharpe further states that absolute agreement with the Choptank and Nanticoke Indians for the sale of their lands must await the convening of the Assembly, but adds

that he himself is willing to have them do so and to leave the Province. The proposition about the sale of the Choptank Indian lands was not carried out at this time, but for what reason it failed we have not yet discovered. More than thirty years elapsed, as we shall see later, before this sale was finally brought about by the State of Maryland, and meanwhile the Revolution came and went, without affecting the Indian title. The emigration of the Choptanks to the North doubtless began in the year 1744, when the Nanticoke Indians sought and obtained permission to leave the Province and to settle among the Six Nations (Maryland Archives, Vol. XXVIII, pp. 338, 340.) As I feel reasonably sure that many Choptanks left Maryland at this time, I do not know why "Nanticoke" alone are mentioned in these negotiations, unless "Nanticoke" was intended to cover "Choptank", as in these later years it often did. Already, before 1756, there were Choptanks among the Six Nations, who in that year sent messages to their brothers and cousins at Locust Neck to come and join them (Maryland Archives, Vol. XXXI, pp. 100, 101). This happy state of affairs was a far cry from those days not more than seventy-five years distant, when the Choptanks were in mortal fear of losing their sons and daughters as prisoners to those same "Senecas" among whom they now settled down in peace and amity.

The Choptank Indian Reserve, as provided for by Act of Assembly in the year 1669, was bounded on the west by the freehold of William Dorrington and on the east by Sewall's Creek. According to a survey which was executed in the year 1712 (see Appendix) the eastern limits of the reserve were the western side of Sewall's Creek and a line drawn due south five hundred perches from the head of this creek; the western limits were a line extending due north for a distance of nine hundred and sixty perches (three miles) and terminating at a cedar tree by Choptank River, the uppermost boundary of the lands of William Dorrington. Along the river the reservation extended upwards from William Dorrington's cedar to the mouth of Sewall's Creek. I have been at great pains to determine, as nearly as it was possible, with the means at my disposal, the spot where this historic tree stood; and I believe that the reader, if he will take the trouble to read carefully the notes hereto annexed, which bear upon this subject, will agree with me that the place which I shall presently describe must be within a very short distance of the true location. The old bounded cedar stood by the shore a trifle over a quarter of a mile within the point of marsh which makes the western end of the shallow bay or hollow lying between this point and the mouth of Cambridge Creek. This is the point which cuts off the town of Cambridge from the view down the river. A small creek makes up into the eastern edge of the marsh which lies behind this point. The Dorrington

cedar, the westernmost boundary of the Indian Reserve upon the river side, stood a little ways above the mouth of this creek, or about five-eighths of a mile in a straight line from the mouth of Cambridge Creek. Even before 1761 the shore at this place had worn away considerably since this tree was first bounded, and it is safe to assume that today the site of the old tree is at some little distance from the shore, out in the river.

It is very unfortunate that none of the plats of the various surveys and resurveys of the Choptank Indian Reserve, which were made at different times under official orders, has come to light. None seems to be found in the collection of manuscripts known as the Calvert Papers, which is the property of the Maryland Historical Society. No plat of this Indian reserve is known to exist at the State Land Office. The last plat ever made of these lands (1799), which was drawn at the time when the State of Maryland was preparing to sell them, was undoubtedly at one time the property of the Eastern Shore Land Office, when there were still two separate land offices in Maryland; but when these two land offices were consolidated into one and the papers of the Eastern Shore Land office were transferred to Annapolis, this most valuable plat did not come with them, so far as it at present can be ascertained. The Maryland Historical Society owns an original plat of the Nanticoke Indian lands on Nanticoke River.

The question of the number and situation of the Choptank Indian towns is now in order. As to what towns the Choptank Indians inhabited before the coming of English settlers into their river (1658-1659) we know nothing of a definite nature. The supposed Indian town of Choptank has already been mentioned. It is not altogether unlikely that these Indians had, among others, a town of that name. But information of a definite and satisfying nature is to be found in a record of 1659. This record is the certificate of survey of a manor called "Wolseley" (see "Appendix"). This manor begins at a marked oak tree standing on a point "respecting an Indian Town to the south east". The point where Wolseley Manor takes its beginning has, ever since this manor was laid out, been known as Chancellor's Point, taking its name from the fact that the patentee of the Manor, the Hon. Philip Calvert, was Chancellor of the Province of Maryland. It had another name, however, Calvert's Point, which name we find on Augustine Herman's well-known map of 1670. Wolseley Manor lies upon the north side of Choptank River, between Eolingbroke Creek and the river. An Indian town to the southeast of Chancellor's Point must have lain upon the southern side of the river in the neighborhood of the creek now known as New Whitehall Creek. On the Herman map we find the words "Indian Towns" next to the representation of a creek which seems to correspond in location to New Whitehall Creek. In this connec-

tion it seems worth while to call attention to the former name of this creek - New Town Creek. It is quite likely that this name, like so many others in Maryland, merely commemorates a place in England from which some unknown early settler came; but it may be otherwise. There is no proof that the name of New Town Creek is contemporary with the Indian town in question; consequently this name does not help us with the site and the history of this town. The earliest record I have found in which this name occurs is a deed of the year 1704 (see "Appendix").

How many towns were occupied by the Choptank Indians at the time when the Maryland Assembly granted them a landed reserve in perpetuity (1669) we do not know exactly. The reservation almost certainly embraced all of the Choptank towns then existing. Of these there were certainly two. It is probable that there were three; and possibly there were at one time four towns in all.

It is likely that each of the three Indian "kings", who exercised authority over the Choptank Indians in the later decades of the seventeenth century - Ababco, Tequassino and Hatsawap - had a town of his own. We know that Ababco was ruler of the Indians of the "lower town" on Choptank River (see above; see also "Appendix"). Almost certainly this "lower town" was that which lay to the south-eastward of Chancellor's Point, on the southern side of the river. Ababco's Indians called themselves "Transquakinnes" (see above). His town seems to have been called, in 1678, "Tresquegue". (Maryland Archives, Vol. VII, pp. 38, 39). "Tequassino's Town" (not named) is mentioned in a record of 1681 (Maryland Archives, Vol. XV, p. 403). "Hardswamp's Town" (Hatsawap's) is called for in a deed from Robert Thornevell to Samuel Bramble, dated January 1, 1689/90, conveying a tract of land called "Robin Hood's Well" (Dorchester County Land Records, Deed Book 4 1/2 (old), 1689-1692, folio 3). Possibly the Choptank Indian fort was one of the two towns last mentioned. There was always an Indian town in or about an Indian fort. This fort is mentioned in a record of 1683 (Maryland Archives, Vol. XVII, p. 176). It stood somewhere on the Fort Branch, the head stream of Secretary's Creek (see accompanying map). It was abandoned before 1705 (see "Appendix"). Indeed, it would seem that by 1719 the only town inhabited by the Choptank Indians was Locust Neck Town. This was where they "huddled" together, dwindling in numbers on account of emigration and for other reasons, and there they finally died out, so far as their residence in Maryland is concerned.

The exact location of Locust Neck Town is unknown to this author, but the identity of Locust Neck is not involved in any doubt whatever. Perhaps this neck still goes by its old name,

but this is a possibility which I have neglected to investigate. Locust Neck lies between Goose Creek and Indian creek, and is bounded on the north by Choptank River. Now, it is a curious fact that the creek of Choptank River which for at least a century and a half has gone by the name of Indian Creek, was formerly known as Sopetank Creek, while Goose Creek, which has borne that name for an equal length of time, was once known as Indian Creek. This fact as to the former name of Goose Creek is brought out in the description of the tract of land called "Indian Neck" (see "Appendix"). The resurvey on "Guinea Plantation", or "Genney Plantation", calls for Indian Creek and Sopetank Creek, but what is meant by "Indian Creek" is the creek now called Goose Creek, and by "Sopetank Creek" the creek since called "Indian Creek" is meant. The description of the resurvey on "Guinea Plantation" in some important particulars does not fit the neck lying between the present Indian Creek and the next creek to the westward; but in the case of the neck which lies immediately to the west of Goose Creek there is no apparent difficulty, "Genney Plantation", laid out in 1665, is described as situated "At the upper Indian town". The same land, as resurveyed in 1720, is described as lying in Locust Neck. Finally, we have the testimony of Dr. William Vans Murray as to the location of the town in Locust Neck. In 1792 Dr. Murray addressed a letter to Thomas Jefferson, transmitting a vocabulary of the Choptank Indians, and giving a brief but interesting account of those Indians of this tribe who then remained in Dorchester County. Murray's vocabulary bears this endorsement: "Taken at Locust Neck Town - the remains of an ancient Indian town on Goose Creek, Choptank River, in Dorset, Maryland" (from Dr. Frank G. Speck's "The Nanticoke and Conoy Indians", in Papers of the Historical Society of Delaware New Series, Vol. 1 (1927). Most of my readers are doubtless familiar with Murray's letter to Jefferson, and I hope I will be pardoned for quoting from it: "The little town where they (the Choptanks) live consists of but four genuine wigwams thatched over with the bark of the cedar - very old - and two framed houses in one of which lives the queen, Mrs. Mulberry, relict of the last chief. They are not more than nine in number." Dr. Murray alludes to the emigration of members of the tribe to other parts.

Locust Neck Indian Town was therefore on Goose Creek, in the neck between that creek and (the present) Indian Creek, which Neck, as early as 1719, was known as Locust Neck. I see no reason to doubt, that the "upper Indian town" of 1665, which stood in this neck, occupied pretty much the identical situation as the Locust Neck Town of many years and generations later. Dr. Murray calls it an "ancient" town.

While the town in Locust Neck was called the "upper Indian town," there is reason to suppose that there was (circa 1666) an Indian settlement above it, between Goose Creek and Indian Creek, where the land called "Indian Neck" was laid out in 1664. This matter is discussed elsewhere (see "Appendix"), in connection with data relating to a tract of land called "Calfe

Pasture".

What is known concerning the last years of the existence of Locust Neck Town, other than what Dr. William Vans Murray tells us, may now be briefly related:

An Act of the Maryland Assembly, passed in November, 1798, provided for the purchase by the State of Maryland of what remained of the reserve or reservation of the Choptank Indians. (Laws of Maryland, 1798, Chapter LXXXII). Commissioners were thereby appointed "to contract for and purchase the lands commonly called the Choptank Indian Lands, in Dorchester County," and were instructed to repair to Choptank Indian settlement "near Secretary's Creek", in order to press the necessary negotiations with the said Indians. The act provided that, in case the said lands were purchased by the State, there should be reserved to the Indians a quantity of land not exceeding one hundred acres, to be laid off in lots where their town was situated, each lot to contain a suitable amount of wood land, and that the land so reserved be held by the said Indians so long as they or their descendants should continue to inhabit the said settlement. Annuities not to exceed six hundred dollars per annum in the aggregate were to be paid to them. The lands remaining, after the one hundred acre lot had been laid off, were to be divided into lots of not more than five hundred and not less than one hundred acres. Advertisements of the sale of these lots were to be inserted in Easton, Baltimore, Annapolis, Frederick, Georgetown and Philadelphia newspapers. The Indians were not to be permitted to sell any part of the small allotment remaining to them.

Notice of the sale of the Choptank Indian lands appeared in the Federal Gazette and Baltimore Daily Advertiser for May 13, 1799. The sale at auction was set for August 20th following, and was to take place at New Market, Dorchester County. The lands to be sold are described as comprising, it was supposed, in the whole about six thousand acres and binding on Choptank River for several miles.

The contract between the State of Maryland and the Choptank Indians is dated April 6, 1799, from which it appears that there remained only four of these Indians, namely, Mary Mulberry, Henry Mulberry, her son, Henry Sixpence and Thomas Joshua, besides one Esther Henry, "a person not party to the contract and, it is supposed, not upon a footing with the others in point of title". (Query: did this humble person have negro blood?). For this information the reader is referred to Kilty's Landholder's

Assistant (1808), page 358. Perhaps this Mrs. Mulberry, whom Dr. Murray called the "queen" and whom he describes as the widow of "the Colonel", the last chief of these Indians, was the relict of that "Indian Mulberry" of Locust Neck Town", of whom we find mention in 1742 and again in 1748 (Maryland Archives, Vol. XXXI, p. 44; Vol. XXVIII, p. 261). Mr. A. Crozier, President of the Archaeological Society of Delaware, informs me that there is a family named Mulberry among the Delaware Nanticokes on Indian River.

How many lots were made out of what remained of the Choptank Indian lands in 1799 I have been unable to ascertain. I have a record of Lot No. Eleven, but more there certainly were, probably at least twenty.

On what date the last Choptank Indian at Locust Neck Town passed away we do not know. If we knew the exact site of the town, a search of the title of the land thereabouts would reveal something of interest. Presumably these hundred acres reverted to the State of Maryland, but of this fact I have not found any record as yet at the State Land office. It is scarcely conceivable that colored people are living today on this land, whose title is the Indian title and whose ancestry goes back to Mrs. Mulberry and her brethren. A hundred years ago the "town" was still inhabited. In an address delivered on July 4, 1884, Colonel James Wallace of Dorchester County recalled the fact, that in the year 1830 he saw the last of the Choptank Indians at a village on Indian Creek near East New Market. It is fair to say that on Griffith's Map of Maryland, 1794, "The Indian Town" is placed at the head of Indian Creek, the same "Indian Creek" as that which now goes by this name; but I do not see any reason to doubt Dr. Murray's statement, that Locust Neck Town was on Goose Creek. Dr. Murray was engaged in a serious business: he was addressing himself to no less a person than Thomas Jefferson. Colonel Wallace was making a patriotic address, -- old style, no doubt. Opinions may differ as to whether or no the worthy colonel added to the fame of the Choptank Indians by naming a brand of tomatoes produced at his cannery on Choptank River "Abasco Tomatoes"; but be that as it may, this brand is still remembered in Cambridge. We must go to Bozman, the historian, for what is perhaps the last contemporary printed account of the Indians at Locust Neck Town. "There are said to be at this day" (1837), writes Bozman, "two or three individuals of them yet remaining, but intermixed with negro blood. They live on some spots of land appropriated to them by an act of Assembly of the year 1798, out of their appropriation in the year 1799" (Bozman, History of Maryland, Vol. 1, p. 115).

To sum up the conclusions drawn from the facts presented in this article or from data thereto annexed:

In the last part of the seventeenth century the Choptank Indians inhabited several towns on or near the south shore of Choptank River -

(1) A town in the neighborhood of the mouth of New Whitehall Creek, above or below it. This was "King" Ababco's town.

(2) A town in Locust Neck, probably on Goose Creek. This was called the "upper town", in contrast to Ababco's town. This "town" was inhabited from 1665 until 1837. How much older it may be we have no means of knowing. Possibly it was originally called "Choptank" and existed before 1640. The old name of the creek which bounds Locust Neck on the west, "Sopetank", may be a form of "Choptank".

(3) A fort on a branch called the Fort Branch, a freshwater stream flowing into the head of Secretary's Creek. We have no record of this fort earlier than one of 1683.

(4) There seems to have been an early Indian settlement in "Indian Neck", the neck lying on the south side of Choptank River, between Secretary's Creek and Goose Creek and next above Locust Neck. We do not understand, however, how, if this was the case, the town in Locust Neck was known as the upper town, unless it was near to the town in Indian Neck and regarded as making one with it.

It is apparent that all the lower part of the Indian Reserve, including about half of the total river frontage, was without any Indian towns at all. I do not think there was any archaeological or historical significance attaching to the westernmost boundary of this reserve, the Dorrington cedar by the river. The Indians desired a natural boundary - William Stevens' Creek - but the Maryland Assembly did not wish to put the province to the expense of reimbursing Dorrington for his extensive lands and improvements, and possibly he had enough influence to see to it that they were not taken.

Of the various Indian paths which originated in these Choptank Indian towns we know comparatively little. One of them ran westward to what at this late date seems a rather mysterious destination - Jordan's Point, on Chesapeake Bay, near Hill's Point at the mouth of Little Choptank River. This Indian path became a county road. Another, the Nanticoke Indian Path, coming up from the head of Transquaking River and an absolutely unknown place of origin, went to the Choptank Fort. Apparently it continued on to the eastward up Choptank River to Cabin Creek and beyond. This no doubt was the beginning of the old "Choptank Path" so called. It is pretty certain that the Choptank towns had a path connecting them with the Nanticoke Indian town called Chicacone Town, which was situated on the north side of Nanticoke River above Vienna, between the river and the creek still known as Chicacone Creek; but this path, if it ever existed, does not seem to have been identical with the one styled the Nanticoke Indian Path.

A P P E N D I X

State Land Office, Annapolis, Maryland, Patents, Liber IV, folio 257: Wolseley - August 25th, 1659: Laid out for Philip Calvert Esq.^r and Secretary of this Province a tract of Land lying on the east side of Chesapeak Bay and on the north side of a River in the sd Bay called Choptank river, beginning at a markt oak upon a point by a marsh respecting an Indian Town to the south east, running north east up the river for breadth five hundred perches, to a markt cedar Tree upon a point bounding on the north by a Line drawn west north west from the sd cedar for length Three hundred and twenty perches, on the west by a Line drawn south west from the end of the west north west Line for breadth five hundred perches, on the south by a Line drawne east south east from the end of the south west Line unto the first mark't oak on the east by the River, containing and now laid out for one Thousand acres more or less.

Maryland Historical Society, Rent Roll, Talbot County, Maryland, Calvert Papers No. 881, folio 7: 1000 acres, Woolsey or Chancellors Point surv.^d 25 Aug.st 1659 for Philip Calvert Esq^r on the north side of Choptank River.

Maryland Historical Society, Particular Tax List, Island Hunared & part of Tucahoe Hundred, 1798:

Sailes Caunar - pt. Woolsey Mannor - 186 acres - situate Chan.r Point (Chancellor's Point).

Wm. M. Cathrop - pt. Woolsey Manor - situate on Bullenbroke Creek.

The manor of Wolseley or Woolsey, otherwise known as Chancellor's Point, lies on the north side of Choptank River, between the point which is still called Chancellor's Point and Bolingbroke Creek. Chancellor's Point derives its name from the fact that the Hon. Philip Calvert, patentee of the land at this point, was Chancellor of the Province of Maryland. This point is called "Calvert Point" on Augustine Herman's map of Maryland and Virginia, 1670, on which same map the name of the creek is "Bullinbroke". To judge by the original description of Wolseley", which is quoted in full above, and other considerations, I believe that the point of land where the beginning tree of the manor stood can be no other than Chancellor's point. On the other side of the river, and in a southeasterly direction, an Indian town was visible from this point in the year 1659. This is what these records, put together, tell us.

"Indian Neck": State Land Office, Annapolis, Maryland, Patents, Liber VII, folio 37: March 12, 1664 -- Laid out for Henry Sewall Esq. a parcell of Land lying on the east side of Chispiake Bay on the south side of Choptanck river in a Creek called the Secretarys Creek (called the Indian Neck). Beginning for breadth att a bounded Cedar standing at the mouth of the Creek being on the south side of the Creek on the south side of the said River and running down the river south west one hundred perches* to a Creek called Indian Creek bounded on the east with a line drawn south east five hundred seventy six perches bounded on the west with a line drawn north east from the end of the south east Line one hundred and eighty perches bounded on the west with a line drawn north west from the end of the north east Line five hundred seventy and six perches till it intercepts a paralell from the first bounded tree bounded on) the south with the said River containing and now laid out for six hundred acres more or Less, etc.

*Probably my error. This line should be of the same length as the third line, 180 perches, since, according to the courses here given, "Indian Neck" has the form of a parallelogram.

Note on "Indian Neck":

On March 22, 1664, there was laid out for Henry Sewall, Esq., a tract of three thousand acres called "Derby" or "Darby" (State Land Office, Annapolis, Maryland, Patents, Liber VII, folio 100). The Maryland Archives contain some interesting facts concerning the two tracts, "Indian Neck" and "Darby". On October 24, 1722, the Committee of Laws reported to the House of Burgesses that it had looked into the allegations set forth in a petition of Nicholas Sewall, son of Henry Sewall, and had ascertained that these lands lay within the bounds of the reservation granted to the Choptank Indians by act of Assembly in the year 1669, being, of course, prior grants. The Committee further reports that it "can find no other proof or certainty for the bounds of Darby than that which may be gathered from the Deposition of Isaac Nicholls to a place called Oyster Shell Point,* where we have marked in the Plat at O". "We find that from the mark in the Plat at O the first course and distance of Darby will very near answer to the mouth of Secretary's Creek" " and according to that, Indian Neck for the most part will be included in Darby and then there will be about 2600 acres in the whole besides water of Darby and the Indian Neck included within the Indian bounds". It was ordered that Major Nicholas Sewall be paid thirty thousand pounds of tobacco for six hundred acres called the Indian Neck included within the Indian bounds. (Maryland Archives, Vol. XXXIV, p. 436). / This subject came up again for discussion in the Assembly in 1740 (Md. Archives, Vol. XL, p. 448). The following year an Act for the Relief of Charles Sewall of Saint Mary's County was considered and passed (Md. Archives, Vol. XLII, p. 262). This Act pro-

*Still so called.

/See also Maryland Archives, Vol. XXXVI, p. 60: Major Nicholas Sewall to convey to the Indians of Choptank the land called "Indian Neck."

ded that the said Sewall, who was a son and heir of Major Nicholas wall, be compensated to the extent of 610 pounds sterling for the loss of "Darby". This Act concludes as follows: "And be it further enacted that when the Indians commonly called the Ababoes, Hutsawaps and Tequassinnoes, for whose use the said land was settled, and taken from the owner thereof, shall totally leave and desert the same," that the same land shall be sold and the money arising be used to reimburse the public. The same was intended to apply to "Indian Neck".

State Land Office, Annapolis, Maryland, Patents, Liber IX, folio 480-81:

February the Xlth, MDCLXV: Laid out for John Edmondson of this Province merchant a parcell of land called Genney Plantation lying on the south east side of Great Choptank River att the upper Indian Town beginning at the Lowermost bounds of a parcell of Land laid out for Henry Sewall* of this Province Esq the sd bound being a small creek called Indian Creek and running down the Indian Creek river (sic) for breadth from the aforesaid Creek one hundred and eighty perches to a Creek called Sopetank bounded on the east from the mouth of the Creek south east for the length of one Thousand one hundred seventy and four perches unto the branches of the River called Nanticoke/ to a marked stake in the fork of the branch and running thence down the branch three hundred and Twenty perches to the aforesaid river east (sic) bounded on the north with the river for the length of fifty perches to a mked Tree by the River on the west into the woods by a line drawn west Three hundred and Twenty perches to a marked Tree in the woods, etc, etc, etc, by a line drawn north west five hundred Thirty & four perches to the aforesaid Sewalls land and the Creek called Indian Creek, on the west with the aforesaid Choptank river Containing and now laid out for Thirteen hundred acres more or less.p mc George Richardson Dept Surveyr.

*This undoubtedly refers to "Indian Neck" (q.v.), laid out for Henry Sewall, March 12, 1664. This land lies between Secretary's Creek (now Warwick River), named for Henry Sewall, then Secretary of the Province of Maryland, and what was then known as "Indian Creek" (now called Goose Creek).

/This obvious error is corrected in the resurvey of this land (q.v.), in which the name of the river is correctly given as Transquaking River.

Hall of Records, Annapolis, Md., Wills, Liber VI, folio 95: The will of John Edmondson, of Tred Haven Creek, Talbot County, Md., 1698. The testator leaves to his son, James Edmondson, 1300 acres "at the Indian town."

Dorchester County Land Records, Cambridge, Md., Old Land Commission Book, pp. 39-40: Resurvey on "Guinea Plantation". Beginning for the resurvey "at a poynt of a march (sic) at ye mouth of a Little Creek

called Indian Creek that Issueth out of the south side of Great Choptank River in Dorchester County before said and on the north east side of the sd Creek then runs crossing the sd Indian Creek south west 62 perches to a markt wt oak and a cedar post standing on a poynt on ye south west side of the sd Indian Creek and by the river side in a neck called Locust Neck, then down the river south 70 degrees west fifty perches, then still down the River south 5 degrees west 216 perches to ye mouth of Sopetank Creek then up the said creek crossing ye sd Creek and cove thereof south east 102 perches to a marked white oak standing by ye said Creek or cove side in a neck called Cherry Tree Neck, then still south east into the woods one thousand and seventy two perches to a markt Red oake standing in ye woods on the south east side of the southernmost mainbranch of Transquakin River above Kennerlies Mill, then east 370 perches to a mkt Red Oake standing in the edge of a swamp and on the east side of a savana called Tom Walls Savana, then north 15 degrees east 430 perches, west 320 perches, north east 130 perches to a mkt white oak standing in ye woods by the edge of a swamp on the south east side of the road that leads from Kennerlies Mill to Cabin Creek Mill, then north west 534 perches to the poynt of march the beginning aforesaid, containing 3140 acres. Surveyed May 20th, 1720.

State Land Office, Annapolis, Maryland, Patents, Liber IX, folio 181: John Edmondson's certificate, Feb. 22, 1665, "Providence", lying in Talbot County (sic) on the south side of Great Choptank River in the woods opposite with the upper Indian Town about some three miles from the said Town, beginning at a marked oak standing near a path that goes to Nanticoke River and running thence east & by north six hundred and fifty perches to a marked oak standing near a branch of Nanticoke River, etc., etc., containing and now laid out for 1300 acres.

State Land Office, Annapolis, Maryland, Patents, Liber XI, folio 466: April, 1666: John Edmonston his certificate, 300 acres, "Calfe Pasture", "lying in great Choptank River on the south side of the River in Talbott County (sic) Beginning for breadth at a marked red oak standing at the mouth of a creek called the Lower Creek and running from thence up the river one hundred and fifty perches to a creek called the upper creek of the lower Indian Towne and bounded on the east with the said creek for the length of three hundred and twenty perches bounded on the south with a line drawn west from the head of the aforesaid creek, one hundred and fifty perches to the head of the Lower creek, bounded on the west with the said creek for the length of three hundred and twenty perches to the first marked oak bounded on the north with the said River containing and now laid out for three hundred acres more or less.

Thomas Mitchell and wife, by deed March 2, 1700, conveyed to Thomas Johnson, of Dorchester County, one half of the tract of land called "Calfe Pasture". Description same as in the certificate of survey quoted above. Mention of "the Upper Creek of the Lower Indian Town." (Dorchester County Land Records, Deeds, Liber No. 5 (old), 1692-

1701, folio 180). Thomas Edmondson and wife conveyed the same tract to Thomas Ennalls, August 20, 1713. "Upper Creek of Lower Indian Town" again mentioned (Dorchester County Land Records, Deeds, Liber 6 (old), 1702-1716, folio 210).

State Land Office, Annapolis, Maryland, Chancery Proceedings, Liber P. C., 1671-1712, folio 764: Colonel Thomas Ennalls' depositions about a tract of land called "Calf Pasture". The deposition of William Willoughby of Dorchester County, bricklayer, aged eighty-eight years or thereabouts, sworn on the Holy Evangelist October 17, 1711, testifies as follows: "that about five or six and forty years since he was hired by a certain George Richardson then surveyor to goe with him and assist him in surveying of sundry tracts of land one of which was a tract of land laid out for John Edmondson called Calf Pasture situate on the south side of Great Choptank River in Dorchester County then called Talbott County, beginning at a marked oak standing on a point on the east side of a small creeke that falls into the said River neer half a mile below a creeke called Secretarys Creeke or Ferry Creek where a certain Isaac Nicholls now keeps Ferry and the sd. deponent saith . . . that he with the assistance of one Richard Bowen did marke the beginning tree aforesaid as also the deponent doth further on his oath declare that when the said Land was laid out for Edmondson as aforesaid the Indians lived on the said land and that he doth not remember that any Indians at the time lived below the said land."

Note: This deposition is confusing. If the beginning tree of "Calfe Pasture" stood on the east side of a creek the mouth of which is not quite half a mile below the mouth of Secretary's Creek, this creek must be Goose Creek, formerly called Indian Creek, and the land in question lies between Goose Creek and Secretary's Creek, and consequently the "Upper Creek of the Lower Indian Town" is Secretary's Creek. The deponent says that when the land ("Calfe Pasture") was laid out (1666), the Indians lived on it and there were no Indians living below it on the river. We know, however, from the survey (1665) and resurvey (1720) of "Genney Plantation", that the Upper Indian Town was situated in Locust Neck, the neck to the westward of Goose Creek. Inasmuch as there is other evidence that there was an Indian town in Locust Neck, the deponent must be wrong either in his testimony as to the beginning of "Calfe Pasture" and the location of the land as thereby implied, or his recollection as to situation of the Choptank Indian towns in 1666 was at fault. Assuming that the last of these alternatives was the case and that "Calfe Pasture" did begin on the east side of the mouth of Goose Creek, we find important information in this deposition, namely, that the Indians, in 1666, lived thereon. This fact, if fact it is, no doubt explains the name of the Sewall grant, "Indian Neck"; for "Calfe Pasture", if this land lies between Goose Creek and Secretary's Creek, must be wholly contained in "Indian Neck". Obviously, the point of having someone prove, that, when "Calfe Pasture" was laid out, it was the

site of an Indian settlement, but no Indians were then living below this neck on the river, was to explain the name of "The Upper Creek of the Lower Indian Town", which the survey calls for. My explanation is that these words should read: "The Upper Creek of the Upper Indian Town".

It should be added that "Calfe Pasture" and "Genney Plantation", being situated within the lines of the Indian Reserve, are not entered in Lord Baltimore's rent- rolls.

Hall of Records, Annapolis, Maryland, Provincial Court Proceedings, Liber T. P. No. 4, 1709-1719, folio 109: Dorchester County, June 13, 1707 - May it please your Excellency and his Maj.tys honourable Council These are to Certifie that I persuant to an ordinance of assembly made and ordered the 15th and 16th day of May, Anno Dom 1707 I have carefully surveyed and Laid out the Land formerly by Law given to the Choptank Indians vizt. Ababco Tequervason (sic) and Hurdswamp and the Indians under their government and charge according to the meets and bounds in the sd Law given and granted vizt. Beginning at the mouth of Secretary Sewells Creek and running up the said Creek south forty two degrees east four hundred and eighty perches to a marked white oake standing at the head of the said Creek and from the said oak Running south five hundred and ten perches to another marked oak standing in ye woods by ye side of a Road that Leads from Edward Newtons to Majr. Thomas Taylor, from the last specified oak running west Thirty eight dege south one thousand seven hundred and forty perches to another marked white oake standing by the Road side that leads from Yarmouth Town* to the Town of Cambridge and from the said oak running west twenty degrees north one thousand seventy five perches to another bounded white oake standing in a swamp and from the last mentioned oake running north nine hundred and sixty perches to a marked cedar tree standing by Great Choptank River side and on the freehold of William Dorrington and from the said cedar south east eighty deg:rs east up the river to a plantation now in the possession of Richd Teat w.ch he the said Teat Leases of the said Indians and from the said plantation northeast seven degrees east one thousand seven hundred & forty perches to the mouth of the afd. Secretary Sewells Creek containing and Laid out for thirteen thousand nine hundred eighty two acres carefully surveyed p. Thom Ennalls sur Regis. recorded July ye 25th 1712.

Dorchester County Land Records, Deed Book No. 6 (old), 1702-1716, folio 5: Deed, January 15, 1702, Winacaco otherwise called Cnock-natoone Ruler and King of the Abapco's Indians for myself and for and in the name of all the severall Indians under my command, to John Kirk of Dorchester County, in consideration of forty- two matchcoats, all that tract or parcell of land lying in Dorchester County upon Greate Choptanke River, beginning at a bounded cedar Tree being the uppermost bounded Tree of William Dorringtons freehold, standing at the mouth of a small Creeke by William Watsons dwelling plantation

*Yarmouth Town was on the Lower Part of Transquaking River.

from thence running south into the woods for the length of nine hundred and sixty perches to a marked white oake from thence east and by north with eight hundred and forty perches from thence north by east four hundred and sixty perches untill it intersect the County Road that leadeth from the Towne of Cambridge in the aforesaid County up into the ffreshes of Greate Choptanke and from thence westerly binding with the s'd county Road on the severall courses thereof unto the head of Shallow Creeke where the main branch crosseth the s'd Road and from thence down the s'd branch unto the main Creeke binding therewith unto Greate Choptanke River and from thence westerly down Greate Choptank River binding therewith unto the aforesaid mark ceeder it being the Lowermost part of a Tract of Land that Predecessors Abapco Dickasine and Harswamp had of the guift and grant of the Assembly in that behalfe will appeare. Liberty of hunting and fowling reserved.

ibid., folio 69:Deed, August 6, 1705, John Kirk of Dorchester County to William Watson, all the estate, right, title, etc., I have in and to a parcell of Land lying and adjoining unto the sd. William Watsons Plantation & Bounded as followeth (vizt) Beginning at a marked cedar being the lowermost bounds of a Tract of Land wch I bought of ye Indians and standing att the mouth of a little Creeke below ye sd. William Watsons now dwelling plantacon and from thence running south untill it intersects with a small creeke wch Issueth out of great Choptank River between ye now plantacon of the sd. Wm. Watson & the Towne of Cambridge and from thence down the sd. Creeke and binding therewith unto a small gutt issueing out of the sd. Creek and Running thro a small marsh backwards unto the Rivr. aforesaid and binding with ye sd. gutt unto the head thereof and from thence north one perch unto Great Choptank Rivr aforesd. and from thence down the sd. River binding therewith unto the first specified cedar tree being by estimation fifteen acres.

Note: Wm. Watson at the time of the above deed owned "Foulks Content" and "Chance" (See below). The above quoted deed only confirmed him in possession of part of the land he already claimed.

Dorchester County Land Records, Old Land Commission Book, folio 107: A. D. 1721 - "Ricarton" resurveyed for John Kirk, Beginning at a markt Red oak standing on ye south side of great Choptank River between ye Town of Cambridge and the land of Govt. Loockermans,* then runs up ye Rivr bounded therewith south fifty six degrees east three hundred and sixty perches to a mkt cedar post standing on ye Lowr side of ye mouth of a creek called Shole Creek that Issueth out of the south side of the above said Rivr, then runs south west three hundred and twenty perches, then northwest three hundred and fifty perches, then north east to ye said mkt Red oak containing and now laid out for six hundred and thirty acres.

*Loockerman then owned "Loockerman's Regulation", composed of "Foulks Content", "Chance" and part of "Busby" (see below).

Hall of Records, Annapolis, Maryland, Wills, Liber XX, folio 750. The will of John Kirk, gent., of Dorchester County, Md., Testator leaves to wife, Sarah, his dwelling plantation lying on the river

(Choptank) at the mouth of Cambridge Creek and adjoining land bought of the Indians.

Dorchester County Land Records, Deeds, Liber 5, (old), 1692-1701, folio : Be it known to all Christian people to whome these presents shall or may in any manner or wayes concern that I Ababco native of the Province of Maryland and King of the Natives or Indians of the Lower Town or Nation of Indians in Choptank River in the said Province called in my Language Transquakines Do by my own free will for a full and valuable consideration in hand received or otherwayes secured before sealing and delivery hereof of John Kirke of Dorchester County in the aforesaid Province of Maryland, etc., have bargained sold etc. unto the said John Kirke his Heires etc. from me my Heires, etc., or any other laying claime title or Interest being allotted to the natives by the right Honorable Charles Lord Baron of Baltemore etc. and his Honorable Councell and now being and remaining upon the English Records att the City of St. Maries in the said Province therefore I do by this present Deed sell as before the said Land to John Kirke his Heires &c all the said parcell of Land Beginning at a marked oake Tree standing att the mouth of a Creeke called by the English men Shallow Creeke naturally bounded with the said Branch up the same until it comes to another marked oake standing by the marked Road and soe along the said Road westerly to an other marked oake standing at the side of a branch Issuing out of the Creeke the said John Kirk now liveth by or on the mouth (sic) soe down the said Branch to the said Creeke and bounded with the said Creeke downe to the River on the easternmost side of the said Creeke and from thence bounded eastwardly with the River up to the first bounded oake at the mouth of Shallow Creeke the said Land Lyeing and being in Dorchester County in the aforesaid Province of Maryland, to Have and to hold, etc. Privilege of hunting, fishing and fowling reserved. Dated May 10, 1686.

State Land Office, Annapolis, Maryland, Chancery Proceedings, Liber I. R. No. 1, 1724-1730, folio 319: Commission issued June 15, 1730, to certain persons to examine evidences touching the purchase of a tract of land called "Riccarton", sold by Daniel Jones of Kent County on Delaware for three hundred acres, part whereof is now in the possession of John Kirk of Dorchester County. The commissioners in their report include copies of the following deposition and deeds:

Deed, November 3, 1671, Daniel Jones of Talbot County to John Kirk of same, part of 300 acres called Riccarton bought by me of Richard Hughes, beginning at the mouth of the Little Creek within the bounds of the said tract of 300 acres called Hughes his Creek, etc. etc. Another deed, ditto to ditto.

Deposition of Arthur Whiteley, aged about seventy eight years. Remembers that about forty four or forty five years ago the father of the present John Kirk had possession of part of Riccarton which was laid out for the Town of Cambridge. This deposition taken in 1730.

Deed, January 20, 1684, Ababco, native of Maryland and King of the Indians in the lower Town in Choptank River in Dorchester County, with consent of all natives or Indians therein concerned, unto John Kirke, all that every part and parcell of land he (John Kirke) now

lives upon according to the full bounds and contents of the patent belonging to him or Daniel Jones* late of the sd. county and Province of Maryland. Hunting and fishing rights reserved.

May 12, 1686: King Ababco to John Kirke, receipt for matchcoats due him for the land he sold.

Attention is here called to the fact that "Foulks Content", surveyed 1682, lies between the uppermost limits of William Dorrington's freehold and the land of Daniel Jones ("Riccarton"), bounding on Choptank River for a distance of ninety-eight perches.

Dorchester County Rent Roll (Calvert Papers No. 885, Maryland Historical Society): Eatons Point, Surveyed for James Eaton, 100 acres, June 16th, 1663, on the south side Great Choptank River. This land in the Choptank Indian line. (Note: this rent-roll dates from the early part of the eighteenth century).

Ibid.: Riccarton, 300 acres, surveyed 29th August, 1659, for Richard Hughes on the south side Choptank (River). 250 a. in the Indian Line rent denied. 50 a. in the possession of John Kirk.

State Land Office, Annapolis, Maryland, Rent Roll, Dorchester County (marked on cover "Somerset-Dorchester"), Vol. 2, folio 426: Riccarton - 300 acres, sur. 29 August, 1659, for Richard Hughes on the south side of Choptank. 250 acres In the Indian Line Rent Denied 50 a. In possession of John Kirk. (opposite page) 100 acres escheated per Thomas Nevitt & resurveyed under the name of Double Purchase. ----- (acres) escheated p. James Phillips and Resurveyed p name of Phillips Discovery.

State Land Office, Annapolis, Maryland, Patents, Liber L. G. No. C., folio 229: certificate of survey of "Phillips' Discovery", A. D. 1741 for James Phillips, a resurvey on part of "Riccarton". The surveyor finds that the beginning of "Riccarton" stood about 1/2 mile below the mouth of Cambridge Creek and at the mouth of a small gut. Mention of part of "Riccarton" whereon the town of Cambridge is laid out.

Maryland Archives, Vol. LI, page 71: March 7, 1671/2: inquisition taken before commissioners thereunto appointed, who say that Francis Tarsell, Thomas ffisher and John Kirke are the possessors of a parcell of (land) being part of a parcell of Land called Rickenstone ("Rickarton") containing 200 acres, Lying within the Bounds of a Tract of Land that by an Act of Assembly, 13th day of April, 1699, was given to the Indians, said parcell of land being taken from the aforesaid possessors by the act aforesaid. They find (p. 72) likewise that Daniel Jones is possessed of a parcell of land being part of a parcell of Land called Rickenstone cont. a 100 acres lying within the bounds of aforesaid tract of land granted to the Indians as aforesaid, etc. Also find John Phillips in possession of parcel of land containing one hundred acres by virtue of a grant from the Lord Proprietary to Henry Mitchell and sold to said

ilips," the w:ch said Land Alapsco (Ababco) and his people are
possession of."

Dorchester County Land Records, Deed Book No. 6 (old), 1702-1716,
folio 156: deed, June 14, 1710, William Dorrington of Dorchester
County to Goovert Loockerman, all that divided moiety and part of
a certain tract of land called Busby scituate lying and being on
the south side of great Choptank River, . . . beginning at
a mark't old cedar standing by ye sd. River side by the plantacon
now in the Tenure and occupacon of William Watson and running from
the said cedar west south west two hundred and sixty perches, etc.
etc. containing seventy-five acres.

Id., p. 150: William Dorrington to John Hambrooke, 75 acres of
land, lying upon Great Choptank River on Dorrington's Point, June
10, 1710.

State Land Office, Annapolis, Maryland, Patents, Liber XXI, folio
426: April 28, 1682, surveyed for Thomas ffoulkes a parcell of land
called ffoulkes Content lying on the east side of Chesapeake bay
on the south side of Great Choptank River in Dorchester County and
beginning at a markt Cedar standing by the River side being the
uppermost bounded Tree of the land of Wm. Dorrington from thence
running up the River bounded therewith south east and by south
ninety eight perches to another markt sapling cedar standing on
the upper side of the mouth of a small gutt near the River side
and near the Lowermost bounded oak of the land of Daniel Jones
from thence running bounded with the said Jones Land into the woods
south west and by west one hundred and thirty perches from thence
running north west & by north one hundred and fifty two perches to
the west & by south line of Wm. Dorrington and so from thence running
bounded with the said Land east and by north to the first specified
markt oak (sic) containing and now laid out for one hundred acres
more or less.

Note: the information contained in this certificate of survey is
important. We learn that the beginning boundary of "Foulkes Con-
tent" was a cedar tree, the uppermost boundary of William Dorrington's
land, standing by Choptank River. This cedar was the lower-
most boundary on the river of the Indian Reserve. From this cedar
"Foulkes Content" runs up the river, bounding thereon, a distance
of ninety-eight perches, to a bounded oak, the lowermost boundary
of the land of Daniel Jones. This land was "Riccarton". Its
lowermost boundary on the river was about half a mile distant
from the mouth of Cambridge Creek, down the river. In other words,
according to these data, the western limit of the Indian Reserve on
Choptank River was half a mile, plus ninety-eight perches, below
the mouth of Cambridge Creek, more than two thirds of a mile and
something less than five sixths of a mile. I think the actual dis-
tance was somewhat less.

State Land Office, Annapolis, Maryland, Patents, Liber B. No. 3, folio 15: April 24, 1696, Wm. Watsons cert. 64a Chance lying on the east side of Chesapeake bay and on great Choptank River Beginning at a marked cedar being the first tree of a pcell of land called Ffulkes Content and from thence runs west and by south one hundred perches to a marked red oak in the woods and from thence north and by west ninety-eight perches to a marked white oak standing within the mouth of a creeke commonly knowne by the name of ffulkes his creek from thence runs east north east ffifty two perches from thence runs east south east fforty eight perches and from thence by a straight line to the first tree.

Note: It is likely that most of this land was taken away by the elder survey called "Busby", which lies next to "Foules Content". "Busby" is entered at folio 426 in Dorchester County rent-roll No. 2 (marked "Somerset-Dorchester"), State Land Office, Annapolis, Md., with this comment: "175a part in Loockerman's Regulation." Only seventy-five acres of "Busby" were included in Loockerman's Regulation, however. Perhaps this means that "Loockerman's Regulation" impinged on "Busby" to the extent of 100 acres more than was permissible.

State Land Office, Annapolis, Md., Patented Certificate No. 1928, Dorchester County: "Loockerman's Regulation", surveyed for Govert Loockerman May 8, 1712, containing four hundred acres, being a resurvey composed of the following tracts and parts of tracts of land: "Foulkes Content", 100 acres; "Chance", 64 acres; part of "Busby", 75 acres, which are described as lying contiguous to one another. This resurvey begins at a mulberry tree standing by the edge of the bank of Choptank River and near a cedar tree, the beginning of "Foulkes Content".

Note: Loockerman acquired his seventy-five acres, part of "Busby", from William Dorrington, in 1710 (see above). The beginning tree of "Foulkes Content" and of "Chance", the cedar tree above mentioned, was the uppermost boundary of William Dorrington's land. Evidence will shortly be presented to show that "Busby" was, with respect to Choptank River, the uppermost tract of land owned by the Dorringtons; hence the cedar tree must have been a boundary of "Busby".

State Land Office, Annapolis, Md., Rent Roll, Dorchester County, No. 2 (marked "Somerset-Dorchester"), folio 418: 100 acres, Foulks Content, sur. 28th April 1682 for Thos. Foulks on the south side great Choptank (River) at a Cedar by the River side. 60a In poss. of Wm. Wattson 40a In the Indian Line Rent Denied. (opposite page-transfers) 100 acres Govert Loockerman from William Wattson Novr. 18, 1710. 228 (acres) Ditto from the Indians June 13, 1722.

Scharf Papers, Maryland Historical Society - Dorchester County, Alphabet to Alienations - Vendee's from Vendors: "Govert Loockerman from Betty Caw (Betty Caco?) Foulks Delight 228 acres under the preceeding is writt in the orig. List what follows Betty Caw whose name is marked LX I think sold no Land but what is within the Indians Bounas & not proper in my opinion to be put upon the Rent Roll signed Phill Loyd."

Ibid. - Govert Lookerman from the Indians Foulks Content 228a June 13, 1722.

What the above means is probably this: Govert Lookerman, to confirm his title, bought 228 acres from the Indians, June 13, 1722. This land was not properly called "Foulks Delight", which lies on Hunting Creek and never lay within the Indian bounds. "Foulks Content" was a name bestowed on it in the deed, and the deed included the land of that name, which contained only one hundred acres. Betty "Caw" is doubtless an error for Betty Caco, the daughter of Wina-caco, and Queen of the Ababeo Indians, the Indians of the lower Choptank Indian town.

Dorchester County Land Records, Deed Book No. 19 (old), 1763-1764, Folio 68: Richard Glover's Land Commission on several tracts of land, namely, "Busby", "Temple Street", "Sewel's Point", "Sewel's Choice", "Clifton", "Clifts" and "Bowling Green", May 26, 1761: the deposition of Thomas Howell, aged about sixty one years, sworn concerning the bounds of Dorringtons lands, mentioned in the commission thereunto annexed, saith that about forty years ago he was present at a meeting of commissioners appointed for running out the bounds of the Indian Lands and that the said Commissioners began to run from a cedar Tree which lay on the beach at or near the place now shewn by Daniel Briffet . . . and this Deponent further saith that it was then declared and generally agreed by the persons that were then present that the said beginning Tree of the Indian Lands as afd. was also the uppermost bounded Tree of Dorringtons Lands. Deposition of Daniel Bruffit (p. 69) contributes nothing further of interest. The Deposition of Henry Ennalls, aged fifty-nine years, concerning the bounds of the Choptank Indian Lands, deposes, that when he the said Ennalls was surveyor of the said county (Dorchester), that he came to run sum of the said Indian line and that he was shewed a place to begin to run the said lines a little above a Locust Post now settled for Lookermans bounder, etc. The deposition of Peter Edmondson, aged fifty nine years, saith that about thirty years ago the sd Edmondson was told by Jacob Lookerman of the said county, deceased, that a cedar Tree then shewed by sd Lookerman to sd Edmondson & lying in the River about fifteen yards distant from the shoar and opposite to a post the sd Edmondson now shews on the shore was the first bounder of the Indians Land & the sd. Edmondson farther saith that he was (shown) ye sd. cedar Tree by James Woolford and several others neighbours to be the first bounder of the Indians Land.

William Dorrington's Lands
Lands of William Stevens

Dorchester County Rent Roll (Calvert Papers No. 885, Md. Historical Society): Stevens Chance, surveyed October 28, 1681, for William Stevens, 34 acres, on the south side of Great Choptank River, on the west side of Jenkins Creek. in possession of Dorothy Stevens.

"Clift", 300 acres, surveyed August 13th, 1659, for John Jenkins on the south side of Jenkins Creek (and) in possession of Dorothy Stevens. Note: "Stevens Chance" was, of course, laid out subsequently to the establishment of the Indian Reserve; but I am inclined to believe that "Clift" was acquired by Stevens before 1669. On this I base my supposition that "William Stevens Creek", which the Indians desired to be the westernmost boundary of their reserve, may be identical with Jenkins Creek; but it must be remembered that Wm. Stevens owned many lands in Dorchester County. Stevens Creek may be lower down the river.

Ibid. -

"Clifton", 200 acres, surveyed August 27, 1663, for William Dorrington on Jenkins Creek - in possession of his son who pays rent.

"Sewalls Choice", 50 acres, surveyed May 5, 1663, for Henry Sewall, on the east side of Jenkins Creek. In possession of William Dorrington who pays rent.

"Hogg Hold", May 18, 1663, surveyed for Thomas Manning (and) patented in the name of William Dorrington.

William Dorrington also had surveyed: "Temple Street", 1673, and "Bowling Green", 1673, all entered in this rent- roll.

Ibid., folio 328: 500 acres, Busbey, surveyed August 13th, 1659, for George Bassey on the so. side Choptank River, 400 a. possessed by William Dorrington. 100 a. by John Haslewood from Tho. Burnall.

Certificates of survey and descriptions of some of William Dorrington's lands on Choptank River, which descended to his son, William Dorrington, Jr., will be found at the State Land Office, Annapolis, Maryland, as follows:

"Clifton", Liber VII, folio 337.

"Temple Street", Liber XIX, folio 316.

"The Bowling Green", Liber XIX, folio 316.

"Busby", 500 acres, surveyed for George Bussey, August 13, 1659: Liber IV, folio 242.

Baldwin's Calendar of (Maryland) Wills, Vol. 2, page 125: abstract of the will of William Dorrington of Dorchester County; dated February 20, 1695; proved June 23, 1697: testator leaves to son, William Dorrington, Jr., all lands on Great Choptank River, containing 1275 acres, and comprising the following tracts of land:

"Busby" (error for "Busby", probably mistake of copyist), containing 500 acres; "Temple Street", containing 256 acres; "Clifton", 200 acres; "Hogg Hole", 100 acres, and "Bowling Green", 19 acres. To

his daughter, Anne, he leaves said lands in case his son should die s. p.; also 500 acres, part of "Poor Harmless" and lands Blackwater River given to wife by deed of gift. (For copy of this will see Will Book VII, folio 290, Hall of Records, Annapolis, Maryland).

State Land Office, Annapolis, Maryland, Patents, Liber B. C. & G. S. No. XIV, folio 337: May 26th, 1761 - Richard Glover's certificate, 952 1/2 acres, "Betsey's Grove", laid out for Richard Glover and Elizabeth his wife, "late Elizabeth Dorrington", May 26, 1761, being a resurvey on the following tracts of land:

"Busby", 500 acres, granted to George Busby (Bussey), 1659. "Temple Street", 250 acres, granted to William Dorrington, 1677. "Sewalls Choice", 50 acres, granted Henry Sewall, 1665. "Bowling Green", granted to William Dorrington. "Clifton", granted to William Dorrington. "Sewalls Point", 52 acres, granted to Henry Sewall. "Clifts".

The Surveyer, on resurveying these lands for Glover, finds that the whole of "Temple Street" lies within the bounds of "Busby", or in the waters of Jenkins Creek; that thirty-nine acres of "Sewalls Choice" lie in "Clifts"; that seventy-eight acres of "Clifton" lie within the lines of "Busby", or in Jenkins Creek; that the bounds of "Sewalls Point" can not be ascertained. The resurvey, "Betsey's Grove", begins "at a marked cedar post standing on the south side of Great Choptank River on Hambrooks alias Dorringtons Point, which post was lately set up for the first bounder of "Busby". We now refer to the plat of "Betsey's Grove", which will be found at the State Land Office, Annapolis, Md. with Patented Certificate No. 475, Dorchester County. On this plat the following information is endorsed: "From the beginning at A to the end of the eighth course is with Choptank River and from the end of the eighth course to the end of the twenty-seventh course is the Meanders of Jenkins Creek - and From the 32 course to the Letter A is Choptank River & Hambrooks Bay." "I have resurveyed and corrected Busbey and Find it to Contain seven hundred and Ninety one acres of Land when Run Withe the Meanders of the bays as Called for in the originall certificate". On the plat of "Betsey's Grove" we recognize Jenkins Creek, the shore of Choptank River between this Creek and Hambrook's Point, Hambrook's Point, and the point of marsh (not named on modern maps), which lies immediately to the west of the town of Cambridge and which shuts off the town from the view down the river. The thirty-second and thirty-third courses of the resurvey bound upon the river above this point. Courses thirty-two and thirty-three of the resurvey coincide with courses eleven and twelve of "Busby", as then (1761) resurveyed. The resurvey returns to the river at the end of the thirty-first course (the tenth line of "Busby" as resurveyed). This is the uppermost boundary on Choptank River of the resurvey. It is also, according to the plat of "Betsey's Grove", the uppermost boundary of "Busby". The deed from William Dorrington to Govert Loockerman June 14, 1710, (see above), for seventy-five acres, part of "Busby", begins "at a mark't old cedar standing by ye sd. River (Choptank) side by the plantacon now in the Tenure and occupacon of William Watson". William Watson was then (1710) in possession of "Foulkes Content" and "Chance", both of which tracts of land begin at a cedar tree, the uppermost boundary of William Dorrington's land (see above). Attention is called to the fact that on the day "Betsey's Grove" was laid out a land commission was held on behalf of Richard Glover, the patentee

of this land, to determine the location of this cedar tree, the uppermost boundary of William Dorrington's land and the westernmost boundary, on the river side, of the Indian Reserve. Of this historic tree we know that it stood near the mouth of a small creek (see above, deed, Winacaco to John Kirk, 1702). Owing to the wearing away of the shore at this place it lay, already in 1761, fifteen yards out in the river. (see above). Judging by the plat of "Betsey's Grove" and other considerations here presented, I believe that the site of this tree is about a quarter of a mile within the point of marsh which makes the western end of the bay or hollow on which Cambridge is situated, and a very short distance above the mouth of a small creek which makes up into this marsh (the "small creek" of the deed of 1702). This place is about five-eighths of a mile in a direct line west of the mouth of Cambridge Creek. I believe it pretty well answers all the conditions here presented for the site of the lowermost river boundary of the old Indian Reserve.

Dorchester County Land Records, Deeds, Liber VI (old), 1702-1716, folio 47: Deed, August 13, 1704, Winacaco otherwise called Onoock-natoon Ruler and King of the Abapco Indians and Noochyousk and Patch-yonoke Ruler (s) of the Hatswampt Indians and Patchyeuse? (Patasuske?) Ruler of the Tequasino Indians to Thomas Ennalls, for a consideration of 6000 lbs. of tobacco, 40 pounds sterling and 320 matchcoats, all that tract of land called "Ennall's Purchase", part of a certain tract of Land that was formerly given to our Predecessors Abapco Hatswampe and Tequassino and their heires by a certain act of assembly Intit. an act for the continuance of peace with and protection of our Neighbouring Indians in Choptanke River scituate lying and being in Dorchester County upon the south side of Greate Choptanke River and bounded as follows, Beginning at the mouth of a little Creeke called Ennalls Creeke and running from thence downe Greate Choptank River bounded therewith unto the mouth of a creeke called New Towne Creeke and from thence continuing downe Greate Choptanke River bounded therewith unto the mouth of a Creeke called Cuddywilson Creeke and from thence still continuing downe the sd River unto the mouth of a creeke called Shallow Creeke and from the mouth of the sayd Shallow Creeke up the sayd Shallow Creeke binding therewith unto the head of the maine branch thereof where the county Road crosses it and from thence with a straight line to a bounded white oake being the southermost bounded Tree of the sayd Land given by Act of Assembly as aforesaid and standing by the Road side that leads from the Towne of Yarmouth to the Towne of Cambridge neer to widdow Kings, and from the sd. marked white oake running east 38 degrees north to a cedar post standing near the plantacon now in the tenure and occupacon of a certain John Wheeler by the Road side that leads from the afores'd Thomas Ennalls to the Towne of Cambridge and from the sayd Ceeder post continuing the same course east 38 degrees north until it Intersects a beaverdam branch that Issueth out of Transquakin River called Haywards Dam and from the sd. Intersection up the sd. Beaverdam branch bounded therewith unto two marked oaks standing at the head of the sd. branch and from the sd. two marked oaks with a straight (line) to a marked white oake stand (ing) at the head of

the maine branch of the first specified Ennalls Creeke and from the sd. white oake downe the sd. branch and Creeke unto the mouth thereof it being the first specified bounder containing by estimation four thousand six hundred and sixty acres. This deed signed with the marks of the following Indians: Winacaco, Noochyouske, Patchyouske, Patersuske. To all people to whom, etc., Wee the Choptanke Indians whose names are herewith subscribed doe by these presents acknowledge and declare that the within Deed of ffeoffmt. of bargain and sale was by our Governors and Rulers Winacaco, Noockyouske, Patchyouske and Patasuske made and confirmed with the said Thomas Ennalls by and with our and every of our assents consents etc: George Attowcase, Queen Nehahcash, Tochowsh, Towcosh, Armstrong Ahquasliow, Pushsheeks, Mr. William Ahconeapatomack, Old Tom Tisehouse, Annaheakows, Cuttyousemous, Weancennoush, Tense, Aheatimousko, Chaquanouske, Neckcapanouske, Ahcatowin, Kehowh, Wapatown, Ohkeapattan, Pequsatcun, Ahighmante, Ahiewasuske, Amannusformes, Wecompass, Mahencesowes, Chocheknotal, Pummapus, Atsquaneh, Keepscon, Woodenhocke.

Notes on the foregoing deed:

Hayward's Beaver Dam Branch, a fresh-water stream, which today goes by no particular name, rises a short distance north of the road between Mount Holly and Hicksburg, and empties into Transquaking River a few hundred yards below Higgins's Mill. The old "Indian line" crossed the headwaters of this stream.

The town and port of New Yarmouth was situated on the lower part of Transquaking River.

Note the fact that this Indian deed is signed by an Indian named Woodenhocke. A stream formerly known as Woodenhawks Branch is one of the head branches of King's Creek in Talbot County. On modern maps the name appears as "Woodenau".

Hall of Records, Annapolis, Md., Wills, Liber XIV, folio 631: The will of Thomas Ennalls, dated May 7th, 1718: the testator leaves to Philip Feddeman one part of "Ennalls' Purchase", lying on the south side of Great Choptank River and on the west side of a creek called Cully Willson Creek and in a Neck called Ware Neck, bounded on the east with the said creek and on the west with Ababeo Creek and on the south with the western branch that issueth out of Culley Wilsons Creek and from the head of the aforesaid western branch with a straight line to the head of the aforesaid Ababeo Creek, containing one hundred acres.

Dorchester County Land Records, Liber VI (old), 1702-1716, folio 87: deed, March 9, 1705, Winnicaco, other (wise called) Ooccoeknatcon, Ruler and King of the Abapco Indians & Noockyouske and Patchyouske, Rulers of the Hatswamp Indians & Patasuske Ruler of the Tequassing Indians to William Seward of Dorchester County, in consideration of a certain tract of Land scituate Lying and Being on Choptank called Spring Neck formerly by us contracted to be sold to John Brannock & since by or (our) desire confirmed alienated & made over by the sd.

John Brannock to a certain Thomas Ennalls, etc. The Indians, parties to the first part, now hereby acknowledge the receipt of a certain number of matchcoats from the said William Seward and confirm unto him (a parcel of land) by the name of oyster shell point part of a certain parcel of Land yt was formerly given to or Predecessors Abapco Hatswamp & Tequasino and their Indians etc. by a certain Act of Assembly Intituled an act for continuance of peace with and protection of or neighbouring Indians in Choptank Rivr. scituate Lying and being in Dorchester County upon the south side of Great Choptank Rivr and Bounded as followeth (vizt) Beginning at a markt white oake standing at the head of a Creeke called Ennalls Creeke & from the sd oake Running Down the sd Creeke Bounded therewith to the mouth thereof where it falleth into Choptank Rivr, thence Running up the sd. Rivr Bounded therewith to the mouth of a creeke called Bear Skins Creeke & from thence up the s.d Bear Skins Creeke bounded therewith to a bounded Tree standing at the head of the sd Creeke near the County Road and from the sd. Tree with a straight line to the first specified bounded white oake -- 500 acres.

Dorchester County Land Records, Deed Book No. 6 (old), 1702-1716, Folio 59: Deed, August 20, 1704, John Bronnock to Thomas Ennalls, a certain parcel of land lying on the south side of Great Choptank River called Bayling Spring, part of a parcel of land granted by his Lordship unto the (Choptank) Indians; said Bayling Spring leased by Weneghaco King of the Abapco Indians and his Queen to the said John Bronnock for forty matchcoats.

Dorchester County Land Records, Deed Book No. 7 (old), 1716-1719, Folio 18: Deed, November 24, 1716, Thomas Ennalls to John Wheeler, a certain parcel of Land being by estimation fifty acres of Land more or less, being part of a tract of land called Ennalls Purchase (formerly bought of the Choptank Indians) acituate, lying and being on the west side of Transquaking River and on the west side of a Beaverdam branch called Haywards dam, Beginning at the said Beaverdam Branch side where the south westerly line of the said Indian Land intersects the said dam and from the Intersection south westerly bounded by and with the said Land for the length of 240 perches, and from thence north north west six degrees northerly thirty four perches, and from thence north east six degrees easterly two hundred and forty perches untill it intersects the said Beaverdam Branch and from thence down the said Dam bounding therewith to the Beginning.

Note: Hayward's Beaverdam Branch rises about half a mile to the northward of the road which connects Mount Holly with Hicksburg. It passes a short distance to the eastward of Airey P. O. and empties into Transquaking River a few hundred years below the dam at Higgins' Mill. It was also called Airey's Mill Branch. Today it goes by no name.

Dorchester County Land Records, Deed Book No. 5 (old), 1692-1701, folio 214: Lease, August 4th, 1701, Winigaco and (sic) Indian King. Sonn to Ababco of Dorchester County to Richard Tlatt of the same County, for thirty matchcoats and with the consent of all my Indians, all that land within the bounds as followeth, beginning att the mouth of a creek called Cuddiwilson Creeke and running up the sd creeke to the head of the westermost Branch that Isheweth out of the sd Creeke to the maine roade and from thence with ye sd Roade to the head of a small branch being the westermost Branch of Shallow Creeke and from thence with the mouth of ye sd. Shalow Creeke and from thence with the river to the mouth of Cuddiwilson Creek.

Dorchester County Land Records, Deed Book No. 8 (old), 1720-1732, folio 142: Deed, September 9, 1726, Betty Caco, Queen of the Ababco Indians, daughter and heir of Winnecaco late of Dorchester County, deceased, who was Ruler and King of the af.d Ababco Indians and Pametasuck Queen of the hatch Swamp Indians Daughter and heir of Patchyosk late of Dorchester County, Dec.d, who was Ruler and King of the af.d Hatchswamp Indians with the consent of the rulers governours great men and others the af.d Indians with the Taguasons of the one part to Edward Newton, of the other part, a certain tract of (sic) parcell of land called Newtons Purchase Beginning at a marked white oak marked with nine notches standing on the north side of the main branch of Kennerlys Mill Dam and in the fork of the branch in the said Newton's pasture, etc., containing one hundred and fourteen acres.

This deed was signed by the following Indians:

Nanee Cahonke (her mark)
widow Tatowin
Arquasuckanak (her mark)
Tallowin (his mark)
Six Pence (his mark)
Weanchum (his mark)
Permetasicsh (her mark)
Betty Caco
Tom Bishop
Dick
Bonny Clabbo (his mark)

Note: Kennerly's Mill, the earliest water mill on Transquaking River, was situated on the main freshwater branch of the river some little distance above the site of Higgins' Mill.

Ibid., folio 142: Deed, September 9th, 1726, Parmenta Sisk Queen of the hardswamps, Betty Carco Queen of the Ababco Indians, Tom Bishop and Bonna Clabbo, of Dorchester County, to John Anderton, all the right belonging to the two nations of the hard swamps and Ababco's, all that part of a tract of land called Bath, beginning at a bounded white oake standing at the head of Secretarys Creek, on the south side thereof, it being a tree marked for the said Indians as a bounder of their late survey and runs from thence south twenty three degrees east

two hundred and sixty perches thence west one hundred and fifty three perches, thence north two hundred and thirty perches to the said Secretarys Creek, thence up the said creek bounded therewith to ye aforesaid white oake, containing one hundred and fifty one acres.

This deed was signed by the following Indians:

Six Pence. Weanchum
Cahonk
widow Tatowin
Little John
Araquakanah
Tattowin
Parmenta
Betty Carco
Tom Bishop
Dick
Bonna Clabbo

Choptank Indian Fort: Nanticoke Indian Path

State Land Office, Annapolis, Maryland, Patents, Liber XV, folio 195: William Willoughby's certificate, 200 acres, "The Exchange", surveyed February 11, 1673, lying on the east side of Chesapeake Bay and on the north side of the north east beavours Dam branch of the head of Transquakin River, beginning at a markt oake standing on the north west side of the said branch and running north west one hundred perches to another marked oake standing neer Nanticoke Indian path and running from thence north east three hundred and twenty perches and running from thence south east one hundred perches to the said branch running from thence down the said branch bounded therewith unto the first marked oak.

Dorchester County Land Records, Deed Book No. 3 (old), 1671-1680, folio 127: Deed, January 6, 1676, John Rawlings and Philadelphia his wife to William Willoby, all that tract of land called Maydens Choice, beginning at a marked oake standing on the north west side of the maine Beaverdam Swamp that issueth out of Transquaking being the first bounded oake of a tract of land called the Exchange and running from thence west eighty perches into the woods, from thence running south two hundred perches and from thence running east eighty perches to a marked white oake standing by the said swampe side, and from thence running up the said swamp therewith to the first marked oake, containing one hundred acres; also a tract of land called White Lady Fields, beginning at a bounded white oake standing by the same swamp being the southermost Bounded tree of the aforesaid land called Maidens Choice, etc.

B.: I have not exactly located the tract of land called "The Exchange," and all that I am at present at liberty to say about its location is, that it can not be far from Linkwood and Hicksburg. I venture to say that it lies between Hicksburg and the upper end of Higgins' Mill Pond, on the main branch of Transquaking River, between that branch and the branch formerly called Hayward's Beaver Dam Branch. Evidence in hand to this effect is complicated and will be omitted in the hope that more simple and direct evidence for locating this land will later be found.

State Land Office, Annapolis, Maryland, Patents, Liber XX1, folio 389: William Smithson cert. 200 acres Yorke Janry the first 1681/2 lying on the east side of Chesapeake bay on the south side of great Choptank River in the woods in Dorchester County afd Beginning at a markt hiccory standing by the side of Nanticoke Indian path from Choptank Indian ffort from thence running east sixty perches to a marked oak, etc., etc.

Ibid., folio 418: Edward Taylor Junr cert 100 acres Westward Janry the 2d 1681: Lying on the east side of Chesapeake Bay on the south side of great Choptank Rivr. in the fforrest in Dorchester County afd Beginning at a markt hiccory standing by the side of Nanticoke Indian path from Choptank Indian ffort being the first Tree of Wm. Smithson called York from thence running bounded with the said land east sixty perches to a marked oak being an other bounded tree of the said land, etc., etc.

Scharf Papers, Maryland Historical Society, Vendors-Vendees, Dorchester County: John Anderton from Indians, 151 acres, "Bath", September 9, 1722.

Hall of Records, Annapolis, Maryland, Wills, Liber Xii (pt. 2) folio 146: The will of Charles Rye, of Dorchester County, Maryland, dated December 23, 1708: the testator mentions a tract of land containing 1632 acres, called "Bath" and "Adaition to Bath", and orders that it be sold for the benefit of his estate, excepting three hundred acres formerly sold to Francis Anderton by Philip Taylor and that which the Choptank Indians take from the said land.

State Land Office, Annapolis, Maryland, Patents, Liber B. No. 3, folio 269: Major Thomas Taylor's certificate, "Hazard", laid out September 15, 1695, lying on the south side of Choptank River, beginning at a marked oak standing by a branch called the fforte branch and running with the said branch west north west eighty perches to Secretary Sewalls Creek, thence north three hundred and twenty perches with the said land (sic) to Cabbin Creeke, thence with Cabbin Creeke east south east two hundred and twenty perches to a parcell of land called Charlton and thence with the said Charlton to the beginning.

Dorchester County Land Records, Deed Book No. 6 (old), 1702-1716, folio 79: Deed, September 18, 1705, Thomas Taylor and wife to Peter

For, all that part of lands being part of Hazard and part of
other Tract of Land called Taylors Lodge adjoining to the said
Hazard; lying . . . on the south side of Great Choptank River,
beginning at Cabin Creeke Mill Dam also Kirkes Dam & running south-
ward with the path yt goes to an Indian fort that was and still with
the sd. path to a branch commonly called and knowne by ye name of the
Fort Branch, thence with the sd. fort Branch to the first bounded tree
on the sd. Hazard thence with a tract of land called Charleton to
the Creek branch to the sd. Mill Dam the first boulder, containing
one hundred acres.

State Land Office, Annapolis, Maryland, Chancery Proceedings, Liber
C., 1671-1712, folio 797: John Stevens depositions about Nanseumum,
February 12, 1711, lying in (Dorchester County): William Willoughby,
aged about eighty eight years, deposes that about thirty seven or
thirty eight years agoe he was at the marking of the first bounded
tree of a parcell of land called Nansenun which land was laid out
by John Stevens Senr by Henry Parker Deputy Surveyor and this depon-
ent further saith that the first bounded tree did stand upon a small
island between Branches by the side of a Creek called Secretary Creek
about a Quarter of a mile below the going over of a branch called
Fort Branch where formerly an Indian fort stood.

Dorchester County Land Records, Deed Book No. 4 1/2 (old), 1689-1692,
folio 37: deed, June 2, 1691, Thomas Wells of Dorchester County to
William Spencer of same, one hundred acres of land, being one
fourth of two hundred acres of Land the which the said Thomas Wells
fully purchased from Thomas Pattison of Dorchester County, gent.,
situate Laying and being on the south side of the Maine branch that
floweth out of the south side of greates Choptanke river commonly
called and knowne by the name of Charleton: the said one hundred acres
thereby bargained & sold to begin at the head of the fort branch ad-
joining to the Land of Charlton and to run on the upper part of
Secretary Creeke untill the said one hundred acres of Land be fully
laid out and surveyed according to patent.

Dorchester County Land Records, "Commissions", Liber E. R. No. 7,
folio 175: John Stephens' commission to lay out a road to his farm
from the public road from a place called old Indian going over to
intersect the private way of Dr. Daniel Sullivane which leads to
New Market. Petition dated April 8, 1823. Said road now surveyed,
beginning for the private road or passway aforesaid at a bounded post
mark standing close on the east edge of the old Indian going over and
from thence to run through Doctor Daniel Sullivane's woodland north
fifty four degrees west sixth nine perches and one half of a perch
to a post close to a gate at the east end of a Divisional fence be-
tween the said Daniel Sullivane and John Newton, then north eighty
five degrees and forty-five minutes west eighty perches through the
said Sullivans cultivated land to intercept the private road or pass-
way leading from New Market to Joseph Ennalls old fields at a marked
stone, etc., etc.

Note: the above quoted record is given for what it may be worth. It is quite possible that the place called the Old Indian Going over derived its name from a ford of the Nanticoke Indian path. It may be worthy of note in this connection that, in 1756, another and earlier Daniel Sullivane, perhaps the father or grandfather of Dr. Daniel Sullivane, owned, among other lands, "York", "Westward", "Addition to York", "Hazard" and "Bucklands Regulation" (State Land Office, Annapolis, Maryland, Debt Book, Dorchester County, 1756). These lands adjoined each other on or near the Nanticoke Indian Path and the Fort Branch of Secretary's Creek (now Warwick River). For "Bucklands" see below:

State Land Office, Annapolis, Maryland, Patents, Liber L. G. No. #., folio 607: John Rix's certificate, 305 acres, "Bucklands Regulation", A. D. 1744, being a resurvey on two original tracts of land, namely, "Buckland", laid out in 1683, and "Debates Enlarged", laid out in 1732. The surveyor returns a resurvey of "Buckland", which is described as follows: "beginning at a marked oak standing on the south side of a marshey branch that makes out of the head of Secretarys Creek on the south side of Great Choptank River, then south east forty perches, south south west seventy perches, north north east eighty six perches, west by south two hundred and fifty perches which line crosseth an older tract called Westward originally 30 August, 1683* & runs into another tract called Bath originally August 14, 1675 (surveyed)", etc. The resurvey, "Bucklands Regulated", is described as follows: beginning "at a marked locust post standing in the place where the first original bounder of Buckland stood and on the south side of the fort branch that makes out of the head of Secretary Creek, then runs south forty nine degrees east fifty three perches to the 2nd boundary of Buckland, etc., etc., to the first bounder of Debate Enlarged, then south eighty seven degrees west thirty perches, north three hundred and seventy six perches to the fort branch, then east south east fifty three perches binding on the said branch, then south five degrees east twenty perches binding with the said branch, then south sixty nine degrees east one hundred perches, then to the beginning".

*This is probably the date on which "Westward" was patented, since "Westward" was surveyed January 2, 1681/2.

Dorchester County Land Records, Old Land Commission Book, folio 22: for Henry Sewall, son of Major Nicholas Sewall, 25 Feb., 1717, "Warwick", belonging to Major Nicholas Sewall of Patuxent, beginning at a mkt red oak mkt with sixteen notches standing by the bank side of Secretarys Creek that Issueth out of the south side of Great Choptank River and on the north side of the said Creek, it being the bounder fixed by the Commissers for the first bounded tree of the said land, then runs east & by north five hundred perches to another mkt red oak mkt with sixteen notches standing in a thickett by an Indian old field that Lyes between the said Secretarys Creek and Cabin Creek, then north & by west three hundred and forty six perches to another mkt red oak mkt with sixteen notches standing by ye edge of the south side of Cabin Creek that issueth out of the south side of Great Choptank River then west and by south six hundred and forty nine perches to a mkt pine mkt with sixteen notches standing by the edge of a march of Great Choptank River Just below the mouth of Cabin Creek, then by a straight line to the first mkt Red Oake, containing and now laid out for 1243 acres.

e: It is worth noting that the Indian field above mentioned lay side of the Choptank Indian reserve and north of Secretary's Creek. Uppermost limits of the reserve on Choptank River were at the mouth of this creek.

Dorchester County Land Records, Deed Book No. 6 (old), 1702-1716, folio 192: Deed, August 12, 1712, John Stevens to Andrew Ramsey, grant of a tract of land called Nancemum, lying on the south side of a branch commonly called the Fort Branch that issueth out of Secretary's Falls Creek, adjoining a tract of land called "Hazard". See above: position on "Nancemum"; certificate of survey of "Hazard"; deed, grantor to Taylor, parts of "Hazard" and "Taylor's Lodge".

Indian Path from the Indian Town to Jordan's Point:

Dorchester County Land Records, Deed Book No. 5 (old), 1692-1701, folio 178: November 12th, 1700: then came Mr. Daniel Clarke aged twenty seven years or thereabouts and Mr. Richard Owen aged fifty before us and doth swear upon the holy Evangelist that the main Indian path that is now from the Indian Towne to Jordans poynt was the Indian path about thirty-seven years ago. Juran corum nos Walter Upbell Just. Corum John Lecompt Just peace.

e: I believe there is room for no reasonable doubt that by "Indian name" the Choptank Indian town at Locust Neck on Choptank River was meant. This is one of the very rare instances in Maryland records where proof that an Indian path became a highroad of the English settlements is recorded. Many examples of that sort of thing there must have been, but proof in nearly every instance suspected is lacking.

Before proceeding to give evidence as to the location of Jordan's Point we quote from the certificate of survey of a tract of land called "Spocott", in which an Indian path is mentioned. This land lies at the mouth of a small creek called Gary's Creek, a branch of the head of Little Choptank River. The head of Gary's Creek is near a place called Lloyd's and not far from Lecompte's Creek, a branch of Lecompte's Bay in Great Choptank River:

"Spocott", surveyed for Stephen Gary, December 27, 1662, lying in Dorchester County at the head of Little Choptank River, beginning at the mouth of a creek called Gary's Creek and bounded on the south by a line (drawn) east one hundred and twenty five perches, north three hundred and twenty perches, west one hundred and twenty five perches to a marked white oak by an Indian path, south ----- perches to the head of Gary's Creek and so down the Creek for the length of three hundred and twenty perches to the beginning. (copied by Wm. B. Rye at State Land Office, Annapolis, Md.) In this connection the following deposition is of interest:

Dorchester County Land Records, Deed Book No. XII (old), 1743-1745, folio 146: Charles Powell's land commission on a tract of land called Spocott, lying in Dorchester County at the mouth of Gary's Creek. The deposition of John Le Compte, aged fifty five years or thereabouts, being first sworn, etc., saith that some considerable time

ago this Deponent was walking with a certain Thomas Mackell on a Tract of land called Spocot and the said Thomas Mackeel showed this Deponent a stump of a Tree Burnt almost to the ground and the said Mackeel Told this Deponent the said stump was the stump of one of the Bounded Trees of the said land and that a certain William Warner (?) Burnt the said Tree Down and that the said tree stood near an Indian path as he was informed and further saith that it was near the place where this Deposition is taken. Sworn February 24th, 1741.

In this connection the following is interesting:

"Refused Neck", surveyed for Stephen Gary, August, 1665, lying near the head of Little Choptank River on the eastern Shore, beginning up a creek called Garys Creek at an oak marked with twelve notches on the creek side and bounded on the south by a line drawn west fifty perches into a swamp, . . . north one hundred and sixty perches to a marked oak by the Indians Cabins at the land of Stephen Gary called Spocoot, etc., etc. (Copied by William B. Marye from certificate of survey of "Refused Neck" at State Land Office, Annapolis, Maryland).

Jordan's Point lies at the mouth of Little Choptank River and is probably the same as Mills Point on Trippe's Bay at the western end of Brannock's Bay. The Indian path which connected Jordan's Point with the Indian Town (Locust Neck town) is doubtless followed more or less exactly by the modern road between Cambridge and Hill's Point. This road passes close to the head of Gary's Creek at Lloyd's. The Indian path mentioned in the certificate of survey of "Spocott", 1662, was probably a branch of this important Indian road. What the object of this Indian path to Jordan's Point was we can no longer imagine. The following land records relate to Jordan's Point:

Dorchester County Land Records, Deed Book No. 6 (old), 1702-1716, folio 133: Deed, July 13th, 1709, John Brannock to Thomas Brannock, all that parcell of land scituate, lying and being in Chesapeake Bay between Jordans Poynt and Manings Point, beginning at a markt oake with twelve notches standing in the creekes side yt. separates the sd. land from the (land) of Mr. Tho.s Jordan, etc., etc., containing two hundred and fifty acres (land not named); also two other tracts, namely, "Addition to Brookes", adjoining the aforesaid two hundred and fifty acres, and "Division", scituate in Little Choptank River betwixt a Creeke in little Choptank River called Brookes Creeke and a Creeke in Island Bay called Jordans Creeke, etc., etc., bounded on the east with Brookes Creek and on the west with Jordans Creeke, containing one hundred and thirty acres.

Dorchester County Land Records, Deed Book No. 19, 1763-1764, folio 89: John Jackson's land commission on a tract of land called "Wardchester" and part of a tract of land called "Jordan's Point": deposition of John Soward taken in the year 1762: deposes as to the boundary between John Brannock and Henry Hill. Mentions head of Broad Cove and Peter's Island. Commissioners "slipe" a pine tree at the head of Broad Cove between Hills Point and Jordans Point.

Dorchester County Land Records, Old Land Commission Book, folio 70: Bounds of a tract of land belonging to Henry Hill of Anne Arundel County defined (1720). Said land commonly called Jordan's Point. Beginning at the mouth of Little Choptank River. Mention of Jordan's alias Osburn's Creek; point at mouth of said creek called Osburn's Point.

The place-names of this neighborhood have changed since the eighteenth century, or do not appear on maps; but there are two exceptions at least; Hills Point, at the mouth of the Little Choptank, and Brookes Creek, the first large creek of the north side of Little Choptank River. Brannock's Bay undoubtedly takes its name from the Brannock family which was settled there before 1709 (see above). This bay, lying within half a mile of the head of Brookes Creek, forms the north eastern side of an anvil-shaped neck, at one end of which is Hills Point, and at the other Mills Point. Jordan's Point, if not identical with Mills Point, lies closer to Hill's Point on the Bay side.

FINIS.