

An ACT for Quieting the Possessions of the Indians inhabiting on Nanticoke and Choptank-Rivers.

WHEREAS the *Indians* inhabiting on *Nanticoke* and *Choptank-Rivers*, have complained to this General Assembly, of several Incroachments made into the ancient Bounds and Limits of their Lands heretofore granted them by the Lord Proprietor, and confirmed by several Acts of Assembly of this Province: For Remedy whereof, and to prevent Complaints of like Nature for the future,

To prevent further Complaints of Incroachments on the Indians Lands,

Be it Enacted by the Right Honourable the Lord Proprietor, by and with the Advice and Consent of his Lordship's Governour, and the Upper and Lower Houses of Assembly, and the Authority of the same, That the *Nanticoke-Indians* and their Descendants, shall have, hold, occupy, possess and enjoy, a free, peaceable and uninterrupted Possession, of all that Tract or Parcel of Land, lying between the North-west Fork of *Nanticoke-River* and *Chicucone-Creek*, for and during such space of Time as they or any of them shall think fit to use, and shall not wholly and totally desert and quit Claim to the same, according as the same is Butted and Bounded, by an Act of Assembly of this Province, made in the Year of Our Lord, Sixteen Hundred and Ninety Eight. Entituled, *An Act for ascertaining the Bounds of a certain Tract of Land, to the Use of the Nanticoke-Indians so long as they shall Occupy and Live upon the same.* And that the said *Indians* shall not at any time hereafter sell, dispose of, or lease for Term of Years any Part or Parcel of the aforesaid Land, to any Person or Persons whatsoever. And that the *Choptank-Indians*, and their Descendants, so long as they shall occupy or claim, and shall not totally desert the same, shall hold and possess quietly and peaceably, all that Tract of Land lying in *Dorchester County*, on *Choptank-River*, according to the Meets and Bounds thereof, surveyed and returned by the Honourable *Philemon Lloyd, Esq;* *Col. Richard Tilghman*, and *Col. Matthew Tilghman Ward*, Commissioners appointed by His Honour the Governour, to ascertain and lay out the same, pursuant to an Act of Assembly of this Province, made in the Year of our Lord Seventeen Hundred and Twenty One, that Survey being found pursuant and agreeable to the Intent and Design of one Act of Assembly, made at the City of *St. Mary's*, in the Year of our Lord Sixteen Hundred Sixty Nine, by which that Land was granted to the said *Indians*.

The *Nanticoke-Indians* shall peaceably possess, all that Tract of Land bounded to them by Act of Assembly, as long as they shall occupy the same.

But they shall not sell or lease the same.

The *Choptank Indians* shall also peaceably possess the Lands surveyed for them, so long as they shall occupy the same.

But they shall not sell or lease it, except, &c.

And be it further Enacted, That the *Choptank Indians* aforesaid, at any Time hereafter, shall not on any Pretence whatsoever, alienate, dispose, sell or let to farm, any Part or Parcel of the Lands beforementioned, except that Part thereof which lies to the *Eastward*, *Southward*, and *Westward* of those Lines formerly run, from the Head of *Secretary Swel's Creek*, to the bounded Tree of *William Dorrington*, by *Col. Thomas Smithson*, and Lieutenant Colonel *Thomas Ennalls*, as the exterior Bounds of the aforesaid Land, pursuant to an Ordinance of Assembly,

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