

could be noe murder comitted but what they either did or knew off, and that they had noe body else to tax but them and that they were but a hand full of men & went too & againe doeing of mischeife in the woods like wolves & noe body could prove any thing against them. And that the Coll should say he would engage to take the ffort with Thirty men and that they were informed Cap<sup>t</sup> Holliday should say he would with forty men engage to take the ffort himselve And that they further sayd That M<sup>r</sup> Stoddert & another man should offer to sweare that two or three of the women were concerned in that murder which they know to be an Vntruth for that none of them were concerned with him but suppose it to be done by fforreigne Indians. Original Journal. p. 16

Another Reason they alleadge for their goeing was that severall people bought their lands over their heads soe that they had noe certainty thereof without their leave and that there could be noe hoggs or Shoats killed but they were still blamed for it & called Rogues & doggs and that the English yearely time after time puld downe their fences & destroyed their Corne feilds with their horses before they can gather it.

As to their coming back they vtterly refuse as also Excuse themselves from coming to the Assembly being very weary & not able to travell soe farr but with all doe say that they desire to live peaceable there & to passe too & froe without trouble as formerly and that the English should be welcome to come to their ffort as often as they please.

And further sayes that he finds the greatest part of the Indians are inclinable to returne back to Maryland, especially the Comon sort of men & woemen & that severall of them are already come back & more resolved to come suddenly provided they may live peaceably & quietly & that they see the English are not angry with them & that they speake very well of his Ex<sup>cy</sup> Saying that they knew him to be in noe fault but that he was alwayes kind to them and that it was the men vnder him that continually abused them.

W<sup>m</sup> Barton

Then read the deposicōns of George Achey William Clarkson Thomas Gatton Terrence Drumer Margaret Robert Robinson William Stinson & ffrancis Marbery relating to the piscattoway & mountaine Indians yet not particularly Effecting them with the murder of the negroe.

His hon<sup>r</sup> Coll Charles Hutchins being desired to declare what he knew of the Nanticoake Indians on the Eastern shoare wherevpon he relates that they have made a new Emperor & that they Entertain & receive strange Indians, three Cannoes of Indians from the westerne shore being met some where about the streights goeing over to them.