

HISTORICAL SKETCH OF MARYLAND

Exploration

In 1498, John Cabot, a man of Italian birth employed by the English, was, in all probability, the first white man to see Maryland as he sailed along the eastern shore of Worcester County. Twenty-six years later Giovanni Verazzini another Italian but working for French interests, passed the mouth of Chesapeake Bay. For half a century after that the Bay had no explorers. In 1603 Captain Bartholomew Gilbert made a more careful exploration.

The intrepid Captain John Smith, who saw many other parts of North America, began in 1608 to carry out the instructions of the London Virginia Company to "find some spring which runs the contrary way toward the East India sea." With fourteen companions in "an open barge of two tunnes burden", Smith started up the Chesapeake. Every inlet and bay "fit for harbours and habitations" was entered, and all the islands were inspected. The results were incorporated in what Smith called "A Map of Virginia", published in England in 1612. Reprinted many times shortly thereafter, the map shows that Smith's voyagers paid close attention to the Eastern Shore, examined the Potomac carefully, but had a hazy idea of the western head of the Bay and only a generalized notion of the lower Western Shore. In 1670 Lord Baltimore authorized Augustine Herman, a cartographer living in the New Netherlands Colony, to prepare a more detailed map of Maryland.

Aborigines

It is to John Smith, also, that we owe our first knowledge of the pre-European settlers on the land of what was later Maryland. Smith's account is bewildering with Indian names; one soon recognizes the adaptations of these same queer-sounding names in present-day Maryland. The Virginia explorer speaks of Yingoteagues, Assateagues, Marumscos, Annameses, Wiccomicos, Nanticokes, Conoys, Trasquakins, Choptanks, Monoponsons, Matapeakes, Ozinies, Tockwoghes, Nattwas, Susquehannocks, Conestogas, Piscattoways, Chopticos, Mattawomans, Patuxents, Aquasocks, Secowocomocos, and others. Despts this multiplicity of names, these Indians were all of Algonquin stock, save for the Susquehannocks at the headwaters of the Bay and the Anacostans on territory around present-day Washington. Invading tribes made forays from the North and at times lived on Maryland territory, and these Indians were