

April, 1669, the first act passed (1669, chapter 1,) was, as its title indicates, "for the continuation of peace with, and protection of our neighbors and confederates, the Indians on Choptank river;" and by a note of Bacon, in his *Laws of Maryland*, we are informed that the land therein described, lying on the South side of Choptank river, and several miles in extent, was settled upon the Choptank Indians, and their heirs forever, under the yearly rent of six beaver skins, on account of their fidelity in delivering up some murderers, and others, who had violated the laws. This act was confirmed among the perpetual laws of the province, Charles, Lord Baltimore, being present and assenting thereto, by chapter 2 of the acts of 1676.

The Nanticokes and the Choptanks are believed to have been of the same tribe, and may have been scions of the ancient stock of Cuscarawaocks, mentioned by Captain John Smith in his *History of Virginia*. The names by which they became distinguished, were given them to mark their respective residences, as is usual among the Indians, and now practised as respects the Senecas of New York, upon whom have been conferred the names of the waters on which they reside; as the Tonawandos, the Alleghanies, and the Cattaraugus Indians. From an act of Assembly (1741, chapter 12,) it would appear that the Choptanks, at that time, located on the river bearing their name in Dorchester county, consisted of three distinct tribes, called the *Ababcoes*, *Hutsawaps* and *Tequassimoes*. It is not known that there are any Indians now called Choptanks. If any descendants of those that once passed under that name remain, they have either become merged in their kindred stock—the Nanticokes, or are scattered abroad and lost.

In the year 1698 an act was passed (chapter 15,) "ascertaining the bounds of a certain tract of land for the use of the Nanticoke Indians, so long as they shall occupy, and live upon the same," but it was subsequently repealed by the general repeal of 1704, chapter 77—a new act, however, in precisely the same words having been passed at the same session, (1704, chap. 58,) and the bounds therein described, confirmed by 1723, chapter 18, the second section of which declares, "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 the Nanticoke river and Chickucone 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, 1698 entitled, 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