

tive man made and used, and which have long since disappeared through decay. The great number of bows, arrow shafts, spear shafts, handles for war and ceremonial clubs and all grooved stone implements, plates, bowls, even wooden blades or spoons for extracting marrow, and the many small bone tools such as awls, needles, and fishhooks, could be smoothed with a flint scraper. It is obvious that primitive man used wood for more purposes than any other material, yet we overlook the importance of this because his wooden articles have disappeared, and we emphasize only the preserved material that we find at village sites today. Dr. Strong, in the same issue of *AMERICAN ANTIQUITY*, page 302, mentions the perishable qualities of wood.

All these numberless tools and implements of wood must have been smoothed by primitive man without the use of steel blades, and he soon learned that a flint scraper was a practical tool for the purpose, as the writer and many other students have found by experimenting. The flint scraper was used for smoothing purposes in the same way that our earlier pioneers used a piece of glass. We well remember watching an uncle, more than sixty years ago, smoothing his *homemade* ax handles with glass.

The writer has access to hundreds of these thumb-scrapers for examination and finds that a large percent are worn smooth by much use on the cutting or sharp edge. Many exhibit a resharpened condition.

We agree with Mr. Cox that the flint scraper is the most common tool found on old village sites of the northwest, but this does not take into consideration the tools made of perishable material. Then too, we must realize that the making of flint scrapers was a quick, simple task, which would suggest a very good reason for their abundance, for if one became dulled it was almost as easy to make a new one as to resharpen the old one.

We are willing to admit that the larger flint scrapers may have been used for fleshing hides, as that process was necessary in preparing skins for tanning. We know that bone tools were made and used for this purpose, and it is evident that blades of hardwood must have been used even more commonly.

We cannot see any good reason why primitive man would use a flint scraper as a "spoon" for extracting marrow. We think that the white man today would use a table knife blade rather than a spoon, and a similar blade made of hardwood would have been a more practical tool for the purpose for prehistoric man.

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#### BURIAL METHODS IN MARYLAND AND ADJACENT STATES

In a previous article (this journal, Vol. 2, No. 1), I attempted to find support in local place-names for the statement, made by Dr. William Vans Murray, that the Nanticoke Indians kept the body of a dead king for many years

in a building styled a "Quacasun" house. The use of this word, in the various forms in which it occurs, to describe a sort of temple in which mummies of the more illustrious departed ones were kept, extended as far south as the Carolinas. Dr. John L. Swanton of the Bureau of American Ethnology has called my attention to the very interesting description of the "Quiogozon" of the Carolina Indians in Lawson's *History of North Carolina* (Lawson, John, *History of North Carolina*, 1714., Reprint, pp. 108, 124, Charlotte, N. C., 1903).

The Nottoway Indians, who, by the way, were an Iroquoian people, had a "Quiocosine house," or "Quiocasin house," on Raccoon Island, within the lower reaches of Nottoway River in southeastern Virginia, in what was then Isle of Wight County and is now the county of Southampton. In 1706 the petition of these Indians for a private "road" to this sacred building, which is described as their "place of burial," was favorably acted upon by the council of the province, to which it was directed. This "Quiocosine house" was abandoned by the Nottoways some time before June 13, 1728, on which date the council granted to John Simmons the right to take up the land lying thereabouts. The Indians formally relinquished their claims to the site on August 22 of the same year.<sup>156</sup>

The word "Quioccason" occurs as the name of a small stream in a deed recorded in Henrico County, Virginia, and dated July 29, 1767, whereby John Blackburn conveyed to Richard Allen a small tract of land in this county. Quioccason Run, which perhaps today goes by some other name, appears to be situated in the western part of the county, near the borders of Goochland.<sup>157</sup>

Henrico County lies on the north side of James River both above and below the city of Richmond. In his *A Further Contribution to the Study of the Mortuary Customs of the North American Indians*, Dr. H. C. Yarrow reproduces a drawing, after De Bry and Lafitau, which he identifies, doubtless correctly, as that of a "Quiogozon."<sup>158</sup> According to Yarrow, both Captain John Smith and Beverly have left us descriptions of these "Quiogozon" houses, although not so naming them. Beverly, in his *History of Virginia*, 1722, mentions the "Quioccos, or Idol," which the Virginia Indians set up in the "apartment" dedicated to the preservation of the mummies of their kings.<sup>159</sup> In the *Relation of Virginia* (circa 1609), by Henry Spelman, we read: "In ye Patomecks cuntry they have an other god whom they call Quioquasacke, and unto ther Images they offer Beades and Copper if at any time they want Rayne. . . ." <sup>160</sup> Dr. Swanton tells me that the word "Quiogozon" and its variations is Algonkian and undoubtedly contains the root *oke*, a spirit.

Very recently there has come to my attention a place-name which, in my opinion, may have the same significance as "Quainkeson Neck." It is found

<sup>156</sup> Executive Journals of the Council of Colonial Virginia, Vol. 3, p. 98; Vol. 4, pp 176, 186.

<sup>157</sup> Edward Pleasants Valentine Papers, p. 29, 1473.

<sup>158</sup> Ann. Rept., Bureau of American Ethnology, opposite page 94. 1879-1880.

<sup>159</sup> *Ibid.*, pp. 131-132.

<sup>160</sup> Printed for Jas. F. Hunnewell at the Chiswick Press, p. 26, 1872.

in the certificate of survey of a tract of land called "Boald Cyprus Venture," which was laid out for Robert Handy on October 2, 1762, and was situated in Worcester County, Maryland.<sup>161</sup> This certificate reads in part as follows:

"Lying and being in the County afsd (Worcester) bounded as follows Beginning at a marked Chesnutt white oak (sic) standing on the west side of Nassaongo Creek and on a point called Quaacotion House point on the south side of the afsd Point near the head of Nassaongo Creek afsd."

Nassiongo, or Nassawango Creek is a branch of the northern side of Pocomoke River. Its mouth lies a few miles below Snow Hill, the county seat of Worcester County. Its sources now lie in Wicomico County. Bald cypress swamps hem in its middle and lower reaches. The neck between this creek and Pocomoke River formerly went by the name of Askiminakonson Neck, and in it, near the site of Snow Hill, was situated the Indian town of Askiminakonson, which, in about 1670, was the largest Indian town in Maryland then known to white people. The dominant people of the place were the Pocomokes who originally had lived elsewhere.

Regarding the land called "Quiankeson Neck," I now have definite information as to its location.<sup>162</sup> The certificate gives us little information, besides courses and distances, that is not in the rent-rolls. The land lies "near" Nanticoke River. It adjoins "Willsons Discovery," surveyed the same day for the same James Weatherly. This last is described as situated on a gut called "Beaver Dam Creek."<sup>163</sup> The certificate of survey of another adjoining tract of land, "Weatherlys Conveninecy," taken up by James Weatherly, November 6, 1699, supplies information as to the character of the land adjacent to the beginning of "Quiankeson Neck," where the "Indian Quiankeson Houses" stood:

"Lying & being in the Co<sup>ty</sup> afd (then Somerset County) and on the south side of Nantecoak River being for the most part a Cyprus Swamp & bounded as foll.<sup>o</sup> Beginning at a marked pine being the first bound<sup>e</sup> of a tract of land formerly surv<sup>d</sup> for the s<sup>d</sup> Weatherly called Quacankeson Neck, thence into the swamp for breadth w.<sup>th</sup> a line drawne west seventy perches. . . ." containing two hundred acres.<sup>164</sup>

In that part of Maryland both the white cedar and the bald cypress are called "cypress." To my knowledge the bald cypress does not grow today on that part of Nanticoke River. It is very numerous on the Pocomoke and its branches, and is found on the Wicomico, the next large tidal river to the southward of the Nanticoke.

<sup>161</sup> Land Office, Annapolis, Maryland, Patents, Liber B. C. & G. S. No. 21, folio 607; see also: Additional Rent Roll of the Eastern Shore, Worcester County, 1764, Maryland Historical Society.

<sup>162</sup> The certificate of survey and patent of this land are recorded in Patents, Liber B. No. 23, at folios 189 and 190, respectively.

<sup>163</sup> *Ibid.*, folio 199.

<sup>164</sup> Patents, Liber D. D. No. 5, folio 14.

“Quiankeson Neck” lies in Wicomico County, probably not more than one and three-quarters miles east of the town of Vienna, which stands on the Dorchester County side of Nanticoke River, and on the road between Vienna and Riverton. This road is a branch of the road leading from Vienna to Salisbury through Mardella Springs. “Quiankeson Neck” is, in my opinion, not far north of the Vienna-Salisbury road. Extensive salt marshes of Nanticoke River lie to the westward of this tract of land. Barren Creek runs not far to the southward of it.<sup>165</sup>

The neck between the northern side of Barren Creek and Nanticoke River was formerly known as Puckamee and was the site of an Indian town, which is mentioned in a proclamation of Lord Baltimore, dated March 13, 1678.<sup>166</sup> This town was doubtless inhabited by Nanticoke Indians. The following data are from Land Records of the Province of North Carolina:

Grant to John Bush, 210 acres, March 9, 1717, lying in Chowan precinct, beginning at a cypress in the Quackason swamp, then S.40 E. 240 poles to the centre of three pines, then N.40 E. 208 poles to a cypress in the quackason swamp, then the courses of the said swamp to the first station.<sup>167</sup> Grant to Francis Macklendon, 300 acres, in Chowan Precinct, beginning at a maple on the N. E. side of Quackson Swamp. Mention of a boundary in Quackson Swamp. (1717?)<sup>168</sup> Grant to Elizabeth McClendon, 533 acres, in Bertie Precinct, August 2, 1727, beginning at a cypress in the mouth of Quiankison swamp, thence along the loosing swamp to a poplar of Wm. Bushes corner, thence S. 45 E. 250 pole to a pine, thence N. 45 E. 260 pole to a maple on Quiankison Swamp, thence down it to the first station.<sup>169</sup> Grant to John Early, 340 acres, August 2, 1727, lying in Bertie precinct on Quiankison Swamp.<sup>170</sup>

In view of the scarcity of the information which is to be found in early Maryland records as to the mortuary customs of the local Indians, the obscurity of the records in which such information does occasionally occur, and the aid which even these scanty clues may some day be to archaeologists, I want to tell what little else I know on this subject.

I beg leave to refer the reader to an article of mine which appeared in the *MARYLAND HISTORICAL MAGAZINE* of December, 1930, entitled *Baltimore County Place Names*; sub-title: *Broad Run and the Indian Graves*. These “Indian

<sup>165</sup> See Abstracts of Deeds, Wicomico County, Md., Land Office, Annapolis, Md., Liber W. No. 3, 1874–1883, page 100: deed, Oct 8, 1875, John C. Walker and wife to Maranda A. Owens, “Queyockoson Neck,” situated in Barren Creek District, Wicomico County (formerly Somerset), beginning at a post on a line of Albert M. Bounds land and on the south side of the county road leading from Riverton to Vienna. Riverton is situated on the Wicomico County side of the river, about four miles above Vienna.

<sup>166</sup> Maryland Archives, Vol. 15, p. 236.

<sup>167</sup> State Land Office, Raleigh, N. C., Land Patents, Liber 3, 1720–1738, folio 26.

<sup>168</sup> *Ibid.*, folio 37.

<sup>169</sup> *Ibid.*, folio 215.

<sup>170</sup> *Ibid.*, same folio.

graves," all traces of which seem long since to have disappeared, were distinguished by three piles of stones standing nearly in a triangle. About the middle of the eighteenth century they were recognized as marking the beginning of several tracts of land. The site of these "graves" is in Baltimore County, between Fork and Kingsville, in hilly country, at a distance of about four miles from the "flats" at the head of Gunpowder River, which mark the beginning of the coastal plain. The fields close by this site yield many arrowheads, but certain evidence of a village site has not come to my notice.

The place is part of the region ceded by the Susquehannocks to the Province of Maryland in 1652. This part of Maryland had no settled Indian population in historical times. Susquehannocks, "Senecas," as the people of Maryland called all of the Five Nations, and Delawares doubtless visited it from time to time; and Shawnees may have been there about the close of the seventeenth century. An Indian path, which led to the Potomac, passed about a mile and a half to the eastward of the place, and was regularly used in about 1694-6 by Indians who were probably Delawares.<sup>171</sup> A small band of Indians settled at the place in 1712, or thereabouts, and destroyed the marks on one of the bounded trees of the lands which centered there. Who these Indians were we are not told.

Settlement of white people in the hill country west of "tidewater" began no earlier than 1699, although there had been settlements in the "necks" of the tidal estuaries west of Chesapeake Bay since 1658. For forty years after the first white settlements had been made on "tidewater," the piedmont region between the site of Baltimore and the Susquehanna River, the "forest," as it was called, remained unsettled. Consequently these Indian graves may be as late as 1700, or even a decade or two later.

According to Yarrow, stone piles marking Indian graves are found in Ohio and Kentucky.<sup>172</sup> Lawson tells us of a custom of the Santee Indians of South Carolina, who marked with piles of stones places where members of their tribe had been slain in battle.<sup>173</sup> In one place he came upon seven of these monuments, to each of which his Indian guide added a stone.<sup>174</sup> Perhaps this may explain the three supposed Indian graves in Baltimore County.

Another and quite different burial custom of Maryland Indians is indicated in one of a number of depositions which were taken in the year 1740 on behalf of the Penns, in connection with their controversy with the Calverts over the Pennsylvania-Maryland boundary line. This line was supposed to pass through the site of the historical Susquehannock fort on Susquehanna River. This fort was located on the west side of the river about forty miles from its mouth.

Several of the deponents testified about its site, but others told of two Indian

<sup>171</sup> Md. Historical Magazine, Vol. 15, p. 115 et seq.

<sup>172</sup> Ann. Rept., Bureau of American Ethnology, p. 118, 1879-1880.

<sup>173</sup> Question: were the bodies of the slain warriors buried beneath these piles?

<sup>174</sup> History of North Carolina, by John Lawson, London, 1714. Reprint, pp. 10, 22, Charlotte, N. C., 1903.

forts which had been situated far down the river, about ten or eleven miles above its mouth, in the angle formed by the river and the mouth of Octoraro Creek, on the eastern side of the river. These deponents all refrained from expression of opinion regarding the name of the Indians who were the builders of these forts, and it is not unlikely that they were not called upon to answer this question for fear that the answer might be that these Indians were not Susquehannocks, as indeed was most likely the case.

Elizabeth Murphy, aged forty years, deposed that her father, John Erskine, who "... had lived at the same place many years by license of the Indians," had shown her there the ruins of an Indian fort and had informed her that "... there had been a great Battle fought there, and shewed her the Bones of several Persons buried in the Cliffs of the Rocks, which he said were the bones of Indians slain in that Battle." Margaret Allen, sister of Mrs. Murphy, testified to having seen great numbers of human bones at the place, "... which her father informed her, had been slain in many Battles fought there," and that "... she pickt up great numbers of stone arrow points and stone hatchetts there."

John Hans Steelman, a well known Indian trader, aged eighty-five years, deposed that forty or fifty years before Jacob Young, another and in his day quite famous trader, had showed him the ruined fort, where Young had pointed out "... several dead mens bones and told him a great battle had been fought there by the Indians."<sup>175</sup>

No doubt all of these Indians who had fallen in these battles had been buried, but whether all had been interred in the "cliffs of the rocks" does not appear. These rocky hillsides, rising from the river flats, run more or less parallel with the river at a distance of about one-eighth of a mile. There is reason to believe that these flats are rich in Indian remains, but no scientific effort to find them has ever been made. The shores of the river between the Conowingo power dam and the mouth of Octoraro Creek are the favorite resorts of local collectors. It seems strange that the Maryland Archives show no certain evidence of trouble or of diplomatic relations between the Province of Maryland and the Indians of these two forts, whoever they were.

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#### THE IROQUOIS AND THE BIRDSTONE

In the last October issue of this journal appeared a letter from Mr. Ralph H. Whitehead of Boston, Pennsylvania, under the caption, *The Birdstone and Its Probable Use*.

On rather specious grounds Mr. Whitehead has attempted to substantiate the old theory which identifies the birdstone as a canoe-prow ornament. With this part of his discussion I am not concerned, having no valid notions concern-

<sup>175</sup> Pennsylvania Archives, Second Series, Vol. 16, pp. 523-524, 525.