

and especially the Nanticoke indians in Dorchester county, who for many years past had lived in peace and concord with the English, and in obedience to the government,—proceeded to declare as follows.

“ That all the land lying and being in Dorchester county, and on the north side of Nanticoke river, butted and bounded as followeth: (beginning at the mouth of Chickawan creek, and running up the said creek, bounded therewith, to the head of the main branch of the same, and from the head of the said main branch, with a line drawn to the head of a branch issuing out of the north west fork of Nanticoke, known by the name of Francis Anderton’s branch, and from the head of the said branch down the said Anderton’s branch, bounded therewith, to the mouth of the same, where it falls into the said north west fork; and from thence down the aforesaid north west fork, bounded therewith, to the main river; and so down the main river to the mouth of the aforesaid Chickawan creek;) shall be confirmed and assured, and by virtue of this act is confirmed and assured, unto *Panquash* and *Annotoughquan*, and the people under their government, or charge, and their heirs and successors forever; any law, usage, custom, or grant, to the contrary in any wise notwithstanding: To be held of the lord proprietary, and his heirs, lord proprietary or lord proprietaries of this province, under the yearly rent of one beaver skin, to be paid to his said lordship, and his heirs, as other rents in this province by the *English* used to be paid”: and it was provided by this act that if the indians should desert the said lands, the former grantees of the proprietary might enter upon the same, and that those grantees should not be liable to the payment of quit rents until they should be in actual possession thereof.

By an act of 1711, ch. 1, upon a suggestion that the lands formerly laid out for the Nanticoke indians were worn out, and insufficient for their use, commissioners were appointed to lay out three thousand acres on Broad Creek in Somerset county, to the use of those indians; the lands to be valued by a jury, and the value to be paid to the owners by the public. They were to be bounded, and the lines marked on trees, or by other land marks, to perpetuate the same. The commissioners were to return fair certificates of their proceedings to the provincial court, and to the court of Somerset county, to be therein recorded. The lands so laid out and paid for were vested in two persons named in the act, in trust to the use of the indians, so long as they should occupy the same, and to be afterwards disposed of as the general assembly should direct, and such laying out, and payment were to