

## HISTORICAL SKETCH OF MARYLAND

### Exploration

In 1498, when John Cabot, a man of Italian birth employed by the English, coasted along the Atlantic seacoast, he became, in all probability, the first white man to see Maryland—the eastern shore of Worcester County was what he saw. Twenty-six years later Giovanni Verazzini, another Italian working for French interests, passed the mouth of Chesapeake Bay. For a half-century after that the Bay had no explorers. Virginia colonists have the credit of this “discovery”; in 1603 Captain Bartholomew Gilbert made entrance for more careful exploration. But the great explorer who saw many other parts of North America, as well, was the intrepid Captain John Smith. In 1608 he began to carry out the instruction 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 a generalized notion only of the lower Western Shore. Until Lord Baltimore in 1670 authorized as cartographer Augustine Herman, a Bohemian living in the New Netherlands Colony, most knowledge of Maryland came from John Smith’s map and narrative.

### Aborigines

It is to 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, Annamesses, Wiccomicos, Nanticokes, Conoys, Trasquakins, Choptanks, Monoponsons, Matapeakes, Ozinies, Tockwoghes, Nattwas, Susquehannocks, Conestogas, Piscattaways, Chopticos, Mattawomans, Patuxents, Aquasocks, Seccowomocos, and others. Despite this multiplicity of names, these Indians were all of Algonquin stock, save for the Susquehannocks at the headwaters of the Bay and