

Another fable attributes the name Pipe Creek to a council of several native nations held in Union Mills on the north side of the stream. Following negotiations, they smoked the peace pipe. Getty believes the name instead derives from the “creek being in a pipe-like channel,” though the pow-wow story is a much more appealing interpretation.

It is tempting to hold American Indians in gauzy memory not unlike James Fenimore Cooper’s treatment in the 1826 classic, *The Last of the Mohicans*. Much of their history may be irretrievably lost, but they will always be part of the bigger story of Carroll County’s early days, living on in the routes of traffic-jammed highways, place names like Hashawha and Patapsco, and ancient, carefully crafted stones that sprinkle freshly-plowed fields each spring.

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**About the Author:** Frank Batavick’s television production career spans over 40 years, including 16 at Maryland Public TV. He has also served as adjunct faculty and visiting lecturer in Communications at colleges and universities in New York and Maryland; most recently at McDaniel. He is a co-founder of New Windsor Heritage and a member and past chair of the HSCC board of trustees. Frank writes a regular op-ed column for the *Carroll County Times*.

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**From Distant Parts: Native Americans in Carroll County**

BY FRANK J. BATAVICK

*The year was, as white men recorded it, 1745. And as white men would have it, the land was Pipe Creek of Maryland. To the Indians it would always be Hashawha... At Hashawha, a Shawnee heavy with four times twenty years could remember when only a few white faces had shown amidst those of his own color. Now as fields turned green with spring in 1745, there were many pale ones and only a few of his own kind; now there were many houses in the fields growing with corn.*

With these elegiac words, Dr. Grace L. Tracey began her unpublished, unedited, and undated history of the early days of Carroll County’s settlement: *From Distant Parts*. Tracey was a partner in the dynamic father/daughter duo who juggled their optometry and drug store businesses with deep dives into the early history of our county, creating unequaled sources for researching land patents and the locations of colonial roads. These roads morphed into highways like Maryland Route 30 but had begun as American Indian hunting and trading trails, which suggests why the Traceys became so intensely interested in the story of Maryland’s first inhabitants.

Just before her death in 1972, Grace Tracey remarked, “You cannot understand the history of Western Maryland if your thinking begins only with the arrival of Europeans. The real history has, in large measure, been lost.”

Within that yawning loss lie unknown names of powerful chieftains, stories of migration, knowledge of language, songs and rituals, and the triumphs and defeats of battle.

We may never fill this void in the county chronicle because of the vast passage of time and the absence of professional archaeological investigations. We simply do not know what we cannot know. Joseph Getty, former executive director of the Historical Society of Carroll County, bemoaned this enigma in his book, *Carroll’s Heritage*. He believes indigenous people had a presence here for over 12,000 years, but it is difficult to definitively establish whether they dwelled in long-lasting villages or were migratory hunters. In support of the first theory, he cites a 1980 Maryland Geological Survey of the Monocacy River Valley that showed “extensive



Detail from John Smith’s 1612 map of Virginia showing dress and weapons of Native American hunter and warrior. (Library of Congress)

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The Historical Society of Carroll County, Maryland, Inc.  
210 East Main Street  
Westminster, Maryland 21157  
Phone: 410-848-6494  
Email: Info@HSCCmd.org Website: www.HSCCmd.org



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settlements and complex village sites in this region, especially along the Big Pipe Creek.” One can reasonably assume that these extended into Carroll County.

Plowing is a rite of spring in the county, and farmers invariably unearth artifacts, usually projectile points from arrows and spears. One can also find these in-and-around streams and springs. In 1987 Getty accompanied Tim Robertson, Sr., educator and amateur archeologist, to an area near the Air Business Center along Maryland Route 97 North. There they found a scraper tool and what appeared to be a burial blade in debris from construction of a runway for the Carroll County Regional Airport. Robertson speculated that the site may have been an indigenous hunting camp and grave, though Getty cautions we cannot attribute all locations where stone artifacts are found to hunting camps.

Eldersburg’s Irving Jack Ruby was a life-long collector of artifacts and claimed to have identified 12 camp sites west of Maryland Route 32 along Pine Knob Road, Strawbridge Road, and Mineral Hill Road on the Morgan Run flood plains and low terraces. Today, all 12 are either under residential subdivisions or Liberty Reservoir. Ruby’s collection included stone projectile points, knives, hammerstones, axes, and soapstone bowl fragments. (Large deposits of soapstone or steatite can be found today in Marriottsville in the southeastern part of the county.)



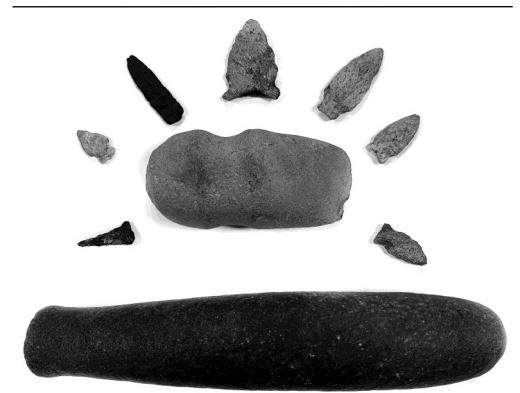
Lisa Macurak and middle school students in 2011 at New Windsor dig. (Courtesy of Lisa Macurak)

The Maryland Historical Trust has established eight developmental periods for indigenous peoples, from Paleo-Indian (10,000-7,500 B.C.) to Contact and Settlement (1570-1750 A.D.). Archaeologists use these periods to date found objects. Ruby’s artifacts range from the Middle Archaic period (6,000-4,000 B.C.) through the Late Woodlands period (900-1600 A.D.)

Shiloh Middle School teacher Lisa Macurak and her students have conducted archaeological digs since 2007 in New Windsor at the old spring house on Water Street. In 2012 the class discovered a bannerstone, also known as an atlatl weight, from the Late Archaic period (4,000-2000 B.C.). Hunters once used these to provide leverage for launching darts or spears. The Monocacy Chapter of the Archaeological Society of America attested to the stone’s provenance.

During 2008 and 2009, Archaeological Society of Maryland members conducted an excavation at Pine Valley Park in Manchester. They found 29 stone tools believed to have been used by nomadic hunters during the

Late Archaic period. Stephen Israel, project leader, noted that the location showed the American Indian’s “preference for proximity to water,” given that there are springs nearby that feed into Gunpowder Falls. Israel said the tools were made from rhyolite. Archaeologists have identified ancient quarries with this grey-to-purple rock in the Middletown Valley in



American Indian artifacts, including spear and arrow points, grooved axe at center, and grinding stone below, from the HSCC collection.

living around Manchester, Schlichter details a possibly apocryphal story: “One night without fanfare, they left this area to look for happier hunting grounds.” Chief Macanappy and his apparently ailing wife remained behind. They lived in the woods “above the present Roger Black home,” believed to be north of Garrett Road near the Pennsylvania line. The wife died a few days later, and then the chief left town for parts unknown.

**The Shawnee**

In 1692, 192 Shawnee and an unknown number of Susquehannock migrated to Maryland and beyond from the Illinois River. They were led by Martin Chartier, a French-Canadian who had married a Shawnee woman. The Shawnee sought safety after losing battles with the Illinois and Miami nations, and the Susquehannock had recently suffered defeat by the Iroquois. Chartier, a *coureur de bois* or fur trader, had designs to use the Susquehanna and Potomac Rivers to transport beaver pelts to waiting markets. The parties settled on the North Branch of the Potomac (Oldtown) in Allegany County, at the head of the Chesapeake Bay in Cecil County, and at the Delaware Water Gap at the northern border of New Jersey and Pennsylvania. Oldtown was originally called “Opessa’s Town,” named after the Shawnee King or Chief Opessa.

“There were several routes between Opessa’s Town in the mountains and the Bay,” writes Tracey, “one through present-day Carroll County (approximating present Union Bridge, Spring Mills, Reese, Lawndale [*Finksburg*], and eastward.)”

When the Shawnee arrived, they called Maryland’s largest tributary to the Potomac River, *Monnockesey*, “river with many bends” and the region *Menawkos*. Settlers re-versioned these names to “Monocacy” and began calling

a trail to Pennsylvania that evolved into a wagon route the “Monocacy Road.” The English soon termed this bit of geography the Monocacy 100 region, assigning the “100” or “hundred” designation to political subdivisions that had the capacity to raise a hundred militiamen in time of war.

The Shawnee named the area surrounding the Pipe Creek *Hashawha*. According to Arthur Tracey, a warrant given to Charles Carroll by Maryland’s proprietary government, located the land “on the head of Pipe Creek on the land called *Hashawha* or where the Indian Cabin or Old Feilds [*sic*] are...” Today Hashawha is the name of the County’s Environmental Center.

The Shawnee remained in Maryland until 1745, the fateful date Tracey referred to in the dramatic introduction to the *From Distant Parts* manuscript. After little more than half a century, they departed for the Ohio Country, as dictated by the Treaty of Lancaster, PA, signed at a conference on July 4, 1744. Regardless, they left their enduring linguistic mark on the County.

Local lore includes legends about American Indians. One involves a friendly shooting match they had with settlers in Taneytown before 1770. When both sides had used up all their lead, an aborigine offered to replenish the supply. In less than an hour he returned with a huge lump of crude lead. Where he found it remained a mystery, despite many efforts at discovery.

Dr. Clotworthy Birnie, physician and Taneytown historian, noted a resemblance to similar stories he had heard, writing in 1894, “Legends of valuable mines and buried treasures are common all over the world, and the folk lore of newly settled countries is especially full of them.”

Indians, by Henry Frank Eshleman.

Georectification placed Smith’s six “king’s houses” south of Harrisburg. Attaock was around York, PA, and Cepowig was at the head of the Bush River, a tidal estuary in Harford County near Riverside. A second simulation used three different source books, and this time the findings suggested a more northern location for the villages. Attaock was on the Juniata River southeast of Lewistown, PA, and Cepowig did not appear on the map at all. Both of Bucknell’s studies had a margin of error of 10-30 miles.

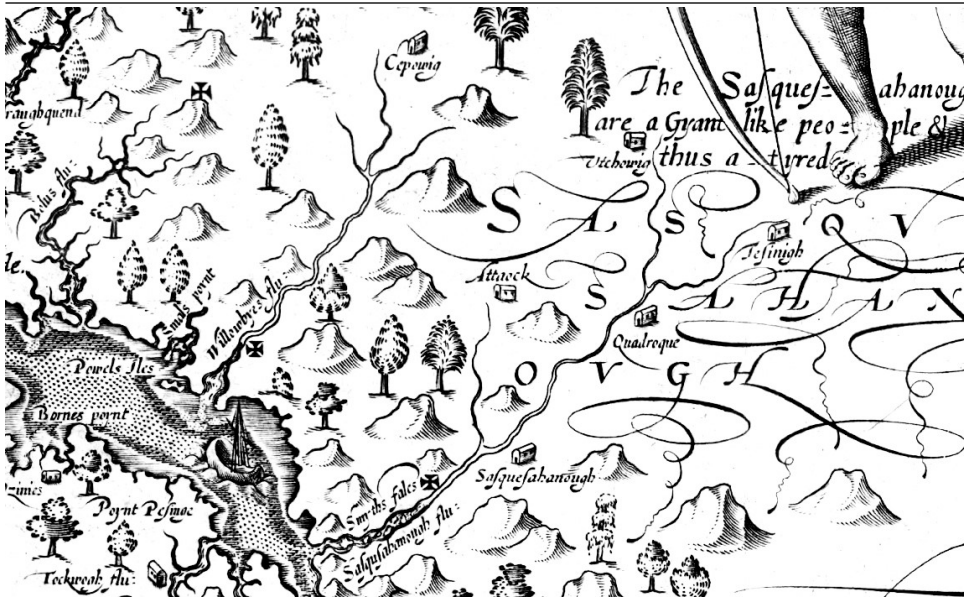
As the crow flies, Westminster is approximately 34 air miles from the Bush River in Harford County, so Tracey is just outside the margin of error. However, one would have to substitute the Patapsco River (shown as the Bolus River on Smith’s map) for the Bush River if we wished to claim Westminster as the site of Cepowig. This is perhaps too much of a stretch, though some argument can be made that the map is of limited precision and the cartographer, William Hole, may have misunderstood Smith’s on-site sketch or, as Hodge speculates, was guilty of “an engraver’s inadvertence.”

By the middle of the 17<sup>th</sup> century, the Susquehannock were well into decline. Maryland historian James E. Hancock writes that those “whom Captain John Smith described as a mighty nation of warriors, had by this time become weakened to a fighting strength of 700. In 1661 the smallpox broke out among them and killed half the fighters, and they could not protect themselves against the

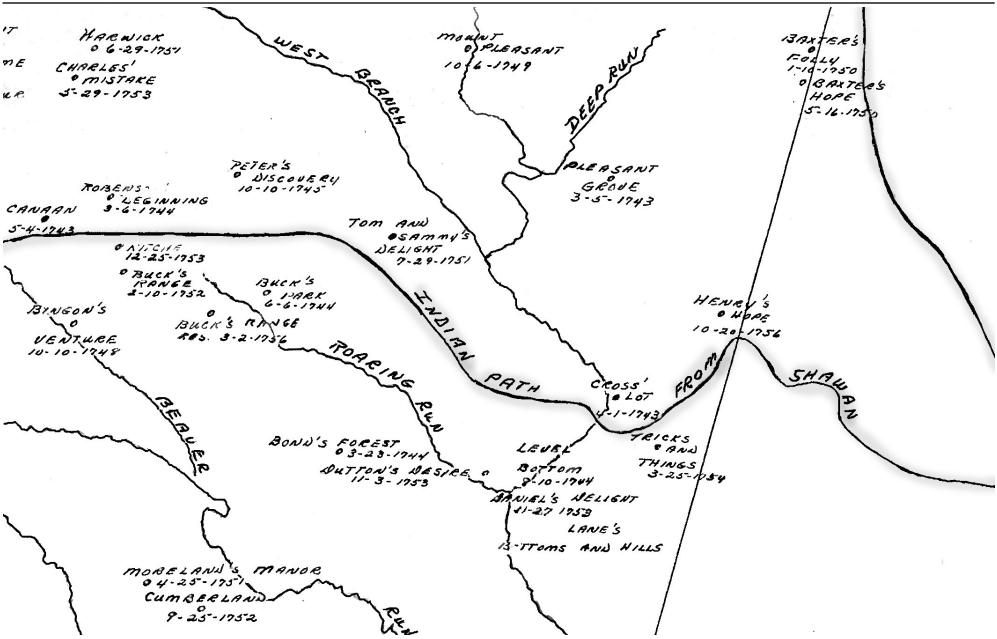
Senecas and the Cayugas from the North.” The invaders battled for trade routes made more lucrative by the rising demands of the European market for pelts.

According to Tracey, “Leaving the River Susquehannah, the struggling, straggling remainder who had not been captured fled to the deserted Piscataway fort on the River Potomac south of present Washington.”

In an 1895 *Carroll Record* article, “History of New Windsor, Maryland,” town historian and shopkeeper Frank J. Devilbiss noted, “A remnant of the ‘Susquehannock’ Indians yet lingered here, and as late as 1810 an old Indian and his family lived near a spring on the farm now occupied by Mr. John W. Myers [south of town off Old New Windsor Road]. This old aborigine was named Dickinson (likely by the white natives) and the familiar creek – Dickinson’s, which now uncomplainingly winds over its tortuous bed, and makes our meadows green, was named after him.” Popular lore also holds that Sam’s Creek was labeled after a nicknamed Native American. As for the small numbers of Susquehannock



Detail from John Smith’s 1612 map of Virginia. Note locations of six towns or “king’s houses,” especially “Cepowig” and “Attaock.” Some historians have speculated that these two are in Carroll County’s locale. (Library of Congress)



Detail from Arthur Tracey map showing “Indian Path from Shawan” entering Carroll County in the vicinity of today’s Finksburg. (HSCC collection)

western Frederick County and on South Mountain near Caledonia, PA. Projectiles were also fashioned from quartzite, jasper, and chert.

What we know of local American Indian history is based on the generalizations of academics and accounts of explorers and settlers in the Chesapeake and Piedmont regions. When these Europeans arrived, Getty asserts the county was a “no-man’s-land” because of warfare triggered by incursions of Iroquois from the north. Hence, only groupings of transient hunters remained in the 1700s to trade with the newcomers.

Nevertheless, there are still fascinating stories to tell, and they begin with the *Anishnabek*, Algonquin for “original people.”

The Algonquin

The Algonquin, so named by the French, came to the area surrounding the Chesapeake Bay around 800 B.C. This was part of a series of migrations starting perhaps 12-14,000 years ago when waves of Asiatic

peoples crossed the Bering land bridge once connecting Siberia to Alaska. Some groups continued their slow progress across the continent, and Maryland eventually became home to the Algonquin which include the Delaware, Choptank, Matapeake, Pocomoke, and Nanticoke nations. Most of these have long been associated with the Eastern Shore and southern Maryland. All spoke a variation of the language anthropologists have dubbed Algonkin or Algonquin.

Grace Tracey wrote that during white settlement of the region, the Delaware had a village in the southeast corner of the county on the South Branch of the Patapsco River. The location was first known as Delaware Falls or Delaware Bottom, and indigenous peoples walked a trail from there that became today’s Henryton, Marriottsville, Ridge, Liberty, Bushey, Shipley, Baker, Marston, and New Windsor Roads. Patapsco is derived from the Algonquin word *pota-psk-ut*, which meant “backwater” or “tide covered with froth.”

Former trails crisscross the county. Manchester stands at the intersection of two of them. According to local historian, Harvey G. Schlichter: “What is now York and Westminster Roads, going east and west through Manchester, once was part of an Indian trail which connected the Potomac and Susquehanna Rivers. What is now Main Street, going north and south through the town, was once an Indian trail from Conewago to Patapsco (Hanover to Baltimore).” It was first known as the Conewago Road, connecting the



settlement that became Hanover, PA, to the young port of Baltimore. Colonists also called it the Conestoga Road or Hanover Pike, and it is today's Route 30, the first public road in Carroll County. Getty has dubbed it "the earliest artifact existing in the area."



Colonial fur traders, 1777.  
(Wikimedia Commons)

On a map of mid-18th-century roads, waterways, and land surveys, Dr. Arthur Tracey identified an "Indian Path" from the Shawan area in Hunt Valley to Westminster that became one of several spurs feeding the main Monocacy Road. The path enters our region near the West Branch of the

Other county highways, like the old Liberty Road and Route 97 north of Westminster, began as ancient trails. The old Monocacy Road that looped down from Pennsylvania, went through Taneytown, southwest to Keymar, and on to Frederick was also one of them. Today's Maryland Route 194 follows this ancient route linking the Monocacy to the Potomac.

Robertson claims that American Indians followed these many paths through Carroll to trade at Harpers Ferry, WV, twice each year. The Eastern Shore aborigines brought shells to barter while others offered hard stones for weapons and tools. Trade items also included grain, wampum, furs, robes, tobacco, mats, shells, beads, and clay pipes.

### The Susquehannock

It was not until the 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> centuries that the Susquehannock came down from New York through the valley of the river that now bears their name. They established fortified villages along the headwaters of the west branch of the Susquehanna River.

The Susquehannock are categorized as Iroquoians, sharing that language with dialects of the Oneida, Onondaga, Mohawk, Seneca, Cayuga, Nottoway, Cherokee, Tuscarora, and Huron. "Susquehannock" is thought to be an Algonquin word meaning the "people of the Muddy River."

Patapsco River in Finksburg and is today's Old Westminster Pike. A 1743 patent to Gabriel Mackenzie for "Gabriel's Choice" notes that his land is situated "on Cobb's Branch [*Little Pipe Creek*] on old Indian trail." At the northwest end of the trail was the trading post of John "Hance" Steelman.

According to Grace Tracey, "The first known official record to help locate an established trading post in present-day Carroll County is the 1727 certificate of survey for James Carroll's 'Park Hall' which had its beginning point 'on a branch of Monocacy called Little Pipe Creek... not far from a path that leads to Hans Steelman's cabin.'"

Steelman arrived in the region in the early 1700s and established a presence along Little Pipe Creek that runs from Westminster to Detour. He opened a fur trading post and built a part-time residence where Roop's Branch flows into Little Pipe Creek. Today this lies on Maryland Route 75 between Winters Church Road and Linwood. He bartered with white trappers and aborigines, including the Susquehannock and Delaware, trading knives, axes, blankets, and trinkets for pelts.

The entrepreneurial Steelman also had a trading post in the mountains near Emmitsburg and owned large tracts of land in Cecil County. He was described at the time as "Interpreter in Chief for the Northern Parts of the Province (Maryland)." More tellingly, he

was a witness to the treaty made between William Penn and the Iroquois in 1736, allowing European settlement of "all the land west of the Susquehanna to the setting sun."

The Irish Quaker Allen Farquhar was another early arrival. He established a mill, and Tracey notes "that Indians Joseph, John and Sam traded at Farquhar's Mill on Pipe Creek in 1738."

According to Schlichter, there were 60-70 Susquehannock living within a mile of Manchester until 1750-51. "On the hill just south of the William Hossler farm there is reported to have been an Indian look-out post."

Dr. Arthur Tracey believed "the waters on the west side of Manchester helped form the boundary, those on the north flowing into the Monocacy and those on the south flowing into the Patapsco. Heavy streams protected by hill country were considered by the early Indians as an ideal site for the location of their villages here."

In studying the Susquehannock, historians have struggled to make sense of a 1612 map of Virginia prepared by John Smith, the English explorer who charted the Chesapeake Bay area in 1608. It shows six towns on the upper waters of the Chesapeake, each named and marked with a symbol for "king's houses."

Frederick Webb Hodge writes in the *Handbook of American Indians North of Mexico: N-Z* that the symbols "may have indicated the seats of neighboring tribes, whether allied or hostile." Aside from "Susquesahanough," the other five towns on the map are not mentioned in Smith's accompanying text, but two — "Cepowig" and "Attaock" — have created some controversy among local historians.

Hodge details that "One of the interpretations of the indicative marks places Cepowig in the

vicinity of either Westminster, Md., or of Gettysburg, Pa." However, he clarifies this by further stating, "With the single exception of Cepowig, which is located on the E. side of the main stream of Willowbye's r., all these towns are located on the Susquehanna or on some of its affluents." He adds, Cepowig, "located by Smith on Wollobye's River, which is apparently only a continuation of what is today Bush River (unless it was placed there instead of on the Patapsco by an engraver's inadvertence), was at all events well within the 'Sasquesahanough' country."

Grace Tracey differed with Hodge when she wrote, "Of the six villages noted with 'King's Houses,' one was called Cepowig. An interpretation of the indicative marks places Cepowig somewhere in the vicinity of Westminster."

Another "king's house" on the Smith map is Attaock. Tim Robertson charted 40 villages in eastern Frederick and western Carroll County. He claimed "the Susquehannock village of Attiock [Attaock] shown in the Westminster area on a 1608 map is actually in the Gamber area." C.E. Schildknecht, who studied the history of Monocacy and Catoctin, believed Attaock was more in the vicinity of Westminster.

The controversy may have been settled in 2012 by the modern science of georectification that superimposes spatial data from satellite images. Using an algorithm to correspond points on an old map to points in a coordinate reference system, or CRS, the procedure interpolates between those points to warp the map, making all parts of it line up to a grid. A team of researchers at Bucknell University digitized Smith's 1612 map with a special emphasis on the coastlines and the location of Native American villages. They were guided by the research of Wayne Clark, archaeologist for the Maryland Historical Trust, and descriptions in a 1909 book, *Lancaster County*