

We Are Indebted to Many Indigenous Peoples on Whose Land We Live and You Meet

The Baltimore Yearly Meeting Indian Affairs Committee mourns what was lost and celebrates what has continued

Native peoples such as those who were part of the Powhatan chiefdom lived in the Chesapeake Bay area for at least 11,000 years before Europeans arrived. We Marylanders live today in towns and rural areas where the Wiscomiss (pronounced Y-cum-is), the Nanticoke (Nan-tu-coke), and the Lenape (La-na-pay), among many other Native Nations, resided in the past. The Nanticoke or Tidewater people came into contact with Captain John Smith in 1608. His map shows Indigenous peoples in every hamlet and along every river. Sadly, the charter given to Lord Baltimore and especially the new colonial government formed in 1642 represented a death knell or a forced scattering of most Indigenous peoples. The Wiscomiss were wiped out as early as 1669 with survivors sold into slavery in Barbados. In nearby Virginia, some tribes famously saved the lives of colonists and are officially recognized by England, yet are denied recognition by the U.S. Only the Pamunkey tribe has federal recognition and that only happened in 2015. Early and recent history document the ways that Indigenous peoples throughout the U.S. lost their land and resources and, in some cases, even their remains to non-Natives.

Our acknowledgement of the horrendous past should not suggest that Native Nations and individual Native people are absent from our geographic area today. Their message is "We're Still Here." There are two state recognized tribes (with three groups) in Maryland, eleven in Virginia, two in New Jersey, and two in Delaware. The Nanticoke Indian Association was recognized by Delaware in 1922. The Nanticoke Lenni-Lenape Indians are recognized by New Jersey. (Note the tribal confederation.) Tribes in Maryland include the Accohannock, Assateague, Nause-Waiwash, Piscataway, Pocomoke, and Youghiogheny River Band of Shawnee. According to the 2010 Census, 58,657 individuals with American Indian or Alaska Native ancestry reside in Maryland. The Baltimore American Indian Center was formed to serve the many Lumbees who moved from North Carolina.

Although PISCATAWAY people migrated to many places as circumstances changed, happily some families stayed here. One sacred site, located in Accokeek, MD is called Moyaone. Chief Turkey Tayac is buried there. A children's book about his grandson entitled *Meet Naiche* can be obtained from the National Museum of the American Indian. The photo below is of Piscataway leaders and the governor who thanked them for their persistence, courage, and capacity for forgiveness during a long-delayed occasion of recognition and reconciliation.



Picture by Baltimore Sun Jan. 9, 2012

Natalie Proctor, tribal chair, Cedarville Band of Piscataway Indians; Mervin Savoy, tribal chair, Piscataway Conoy Confederacy and Sub-Tribes; Maryland Governor Martin O'Malley; Chief William Reg Ring Tayac, Piscataway Indian Nation. State Recognition Ceremony.

**BYM Indian Affairs
Committee member
Gerri Williams at
left end of banner,
Suzan Harjo at right
Sacred Sites ceremony
Washington, DC**



**E. Keith Colston
Director of MD
Commission on
Indian Affairs
holds Committee shirt
Frostburg, MD**



**BYM Indian Affairs
Committee member
Dellie James with
Director Colston
in front of display table
Annual Session 2014**

