Resource Sheet #3

The time covered by the present volume was one of disquiet and apprehension. The northern Indians were restless, and, without entering into a general war, seem to have been harassing the tribes to the south of them. The Senecas, especially, had been pressing hard on the Susquehannoughs, who, having been much reduced in numbers by an epidemic of small-pox, were no longer able to maintain themselves, and fell back into southern Maryland into the lands formerly occupied by the Pascattoways on the Potomac. Predatory bands, apparently recruited from various tribes, like the free companies of the fourteenth century, roamed about, doing miscellaneous mischief. Either one of these bands, or else a strong party of the Senecas, followed the retreating Susquehannoughs, and either these or the Susquehannoughs themselves did considerable damage in both Maryland and Virginia. Several whites were murdered in both provinces. The Virginians, rightly or wrongly, attributed these murders to the Susquehannoughs, who had established themselves in an old Indian fort; and in September, 1675, a force under Col. John Washington joined a body of Marylanders under Major Thomas Truman, and invested the Susquehannoughs in their fort. The chiefs were invited to a parley, and a number of them came out, who averred that the murders were done by the Senecas, that they themselves were fast friends of the English, and in proof they exhibited a Maryland medal with its gold-and-black ribbon, which had been given them by Governor Calvert as a token of amity and a protection. According to the statement of Truman, who was afterwards brought to a reckoning for his share in this affair, the Virginians could not be restrained, and seizing five chiefs who hadcome out to the parley, tomahawked them all. Tomahawked they certainly were, when they had come out under assurance of safety.

The consequences of this atrocious breach of faith were disastrous'. The friendly Indians lost confidence in the colonists; suspicious goings-on were observed among them; emissaries from the northern Indians came down; predatory bands made sudden forays upon isolated plantations from Cecil to St. Mary's; and a general uneasiness pervaded the province.

The Susquehannoughs who had remained in the fort at the time of the massacre, held out until their provisions were spent, and then made their escape by night, and going southward through Virginia, left a wide track of mischief behind them, and terrorised the whole province, out of which grew Bacon's rebellion.

In these troubles the Pascattoways, Mattawomans, and other friendly Indians, had given what assistance they could to the whites, thus drawing upon themselves the wrath of the hostiles; and as they were weak, many measures had to be taken for their protection.

On the 3Oth of November, 1675, Cecilius, Lord Baltimore, died, and was succeeded by Charles, his only son, who was then in Maryland. Charles, finding it necessary to take a voyage to England, appointed his young son Cecilius Governor, and Jesse Wharton Deputy Governor, in the Proprietary's absence, with instructions that if Wharton should be in danger of death, he should appoint Thomas Notley to succeed him. Wharton was probably in ill health at the time of his appointment, for in about a month he nominated Notley as his successor, and died shortly after. The young Cecilius, or Cecil, Calvert was afterwards sent to England, where he died in minority at some date later than 1679.

The remnant of the Susquehannoughs, now utterly broken as a tribe, put themselves under the protection of the Senecas, or of the Iroquois Confederacy, and to avoid further troubles a treaty with the Five Nations was concluded by an agent of the Maryland government at Albany in 1677. In this, as in similar treaties, the Pascattoways and other friendly Indians were included, as under the protection of the government. Roving parties of Indians from the north at intervals made their appearance, doing some mischief, and spreading much uneasiness, especially among the Maryland Indians, who called upon the whites for aid. Sometimes they received arms, and at other times they were removed to more defensible places. Parties of armed rangers kept constantly on the move.

Proceedings of the Council of Maryland, 1671-1681 (Transcribed version). *Maryland Historical Society*. Retrieved (September 25, 2007) from

http://www.msa.md.gov/megafile/msa/speccol/sc2900/sc2908/000001/000015/html/am15p--4.html