

Indigenous History Timeline (Chesapeake Region)

3000 BC – First natives began occupying upper tidewater of the Chesapeake Bay.

1000 CE – Introduction of three sisters' agricultural system allows for larger and more permanent settlements along waterways.

1300 – More technologically advanced Algonquian bands arrive from the north and drive out or assimilate original inhabitants. Susquehannock break away from Mohawk tribe.

1400 – Algonquian culture becomes dominant force of the Chesapeake region.

1500 – Piscataway chiefdom created and becomes the first paramount chiefdom of the Chesapeake region.

1550 – Susquehannock Indians settle along the Susquehanna River.

1560 – Powhatan begins to expand his chiefdom south of the Potomac River.

1575 – Susquehannock Indians begin raiding Piscataway territory.

1590 – Piscataway lose territory in the north to the Susquehannock and in the south to the Powhatan the Piscataway chiefdom begins its' decline.

1600 – Beaver War begins.

1607 – The Powhatan Chiefdom is the strongest Algonquian force in the Chesapeake region. The English settle Jamestown and begin the colony of Virginia.

1620 – Massawomeck begin raiding Piscataway tribes along the Potomac and the Chesapeake Bay.

1622 – Opechancanough leads major attack against outlying plantations of the Virginia colony.

1623 – Henry Spelman and his trading expedition are ambushed by the Anacostan Indians, members of the Piscataway Chiefdom. All members of the expedition are killed except for Henry Fleete, who is captured.

1623 – Virginian English launch a retaliatory raid against Piscataway village of Moyoane and burn it to the ground.

1627-31 – Massawomeck raids continue and the village of Moyoane is burned a second time. Nearly 700 Piscataway are killed as a result of this raid. Piscataway move to new village further inland along Piscataway Creek.

1631 – Beaver fur trade begins in the Chesapeake Bay.

1632 – Beaver fur trade begins in the Potomac River.

1634 – St. Mary's City founded and the colony of Maryland begun. Alliance formed between the Maryland English and the Piscataway Chiefdom. The Susquehannock begin war with the Lenni Lenape for access to Dutch and Swedish trade goods.

1642 – The governor of Maryland declares the Susquehannocks, Nanticoke, and Wicomisses enemies of the colony.

1643 – Maryland militia soundly defeated by Susquehannock war party.

1645 – Susquehannock make peace with the Lenni Lenape and become major trading allies of the Swedes.

1649 – Iroquois League attack and defeat the Huron, allies of the Susquehannock.

1651 – Mohawk Indians attack the Susquehannock in an effort to obtain access to beaver pelts for European trade goods. Beaver War begins to affect Maryland.

1652 – Susquehannock and Maryland English make peace.

1655 – The Dutch force the Swedes to abandon their trading posts in the New World.

1658 – Truce between the Susquehannock and the Mohawk.

1660 – Peace between the Susquehannock and the Mohawk.

1661 – Susquehannock become allies of the Maryland English.

1663 – Susquehannock attacked by the Seneca, Cayuga, and Oneida tribes. The Piscataway become involved in the Beaver War as Susquehannock allies.

1666 – Treaty between the English and the Susquehannocks at St. John's.

1670 – Peace returns to Maryland frontier as the Susquehannock and Piscataway defeat Iroquois tribes.

1672 – Susquehannock attacked by Seneca and Cayuga

1675 – Susquehannock and Piscataway defeat Iroquois tribes.

- Maryland English make peace with Seneca.
- Susquehannock move to site of Moyoane on Piscataway Creek.
- Piscataway return to village on Piscataway Creek.
- Thomas Matthew's Plantation raids in Virginia.
- Susquehannock chiefs murdered.
- Susquehannock fort besieged by Maryland and Virginia militias with help from Piscataway allies.
- Susquehannock escape into Virginia.

1676 – Susquehannock make peace with the Seneca and are adopted by that tribe.

1679 – Susquehannock and Seneca begin last phase of the Beaver War in Maryland and attack the Piscataway.

1681 – Susquehannock and Seneca raids force the Piscataway to flee into the Zekiah swamp in Charles County where they construct Fort on property granted by the Lord Baltimore.

1682 – The Seneca arrange a truce between the Susquehannock and the Piscataway.

1685 – The Seneca arrange a final peace between the Susquehannock and the Piscataway. The Beaver War ends.

1697 – Piscataway move to the vicinity of Middleburg Virginia, most likely from Zekiah Fort in Charles County.

1699 – Piscataway arrive at Heater's Island, now in Montgomery County near Seneca Rocks in the Potomac River.

1700 – The Susquehannock return to their traditional tribal lands along the Susquehanna River. They are subsequently known as the Conestoga.

1705-1712 – Piscataway move from Heater's Island to join the Susquehanna/Conestoga in Pennsylvania where they are known as the Conoy.

While many of the Piscataway left Maryland at the beginning of the 18th century a remnant population remained in Southern Maryland, most notably Charles County. Their descendants reasserted their identity in the second half of the 20th century. On January 12, 2012, the State of Maryland officially recognized the Piscataway.