This bibliography provides an introduction to the archeology, ethnology, and history of Indians in the Washington, D.C., Virginia, and Maryland areas. Many of these books may be found in larger libraries or obtained through inter library loan.

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Smithsonian
National Museum of Natural History
Department of Anthropology

1999
SECTION I: GENERAL WORKS

An excellent description of artifacts, including identifications and illustrations of stone tools. Very useful for the beginner, although it does not include a section on the D.C. area.

A basic guide to archeology, well suited to beginners. Gives background on archeological techniques including classification and description of major artifact types. Includes a guide to museums and sites open to the public.

A brief overview of the American Indian cultures of the Potomac Valley from the PaleoIndian to Woodland periods. Well written and readily understood.

A summary of recent archeological research and interpretations of Eastern North American prehistory.

A major comprehensive reference with a useful regional chronology and site inventory as of 1951. Excellent background material for artifact identification. Although this work does not concentrate on the Potomac Valley, it provides useful background material for this area.

An encyclopedic treatment of the subject, organized alphabetically. Most topical articles are now outofdate, but articles under tribal and personal names are still very useful. Valuable synonymy of tribal names at the end.

An early, comprehensive scientific study of the archeology and prehistory of the Potomac Valley based on an analysis of stone tools. Discusses quarry methods, uses of raw materials, methods of tool manufacture, and classification of tool types. A basic reference to local archeology, however, the dates, sequence, and much else are entirely outofdate.

This work, organized by geographic area and tribal groups, offers a nearly complete listing of serious published accounts of Native American cultures up to 1975. No annotations nor topical indexes but does contain a tribal map.


A summary of what is known of the historic cultures, arranged topically. See Powhatan, Pamlico (in index), and other tribes as shown on book’s map.

An alphabetic compilation of native tribal groups by states with short descriptive summaries of each tribe.

A general introduction to Native Americans organized by culture areas with a good chapter on the Eastern Algonquians.


A good introductory text covering the archeology of North and Middle America. Organized by geographic area and cultural traditions.

**SECTION II: HISTORICAL STUDIES**


A biography of Captain John Smith as an adventurer, a colonist, and a promoter. This work provides an understanding of the foundations of IndianWhite relations in the VirginiaMaryland Tidewater.

Contemporary documents, with much information on Indians. Well indexed.

Cites sources and includes a bibliography.

Describes non-reservation Indians of the East, 1930s - 1950s.
A reprint of work first published in 1705, containing first hand information on Virginia Indians.


Organized for scientific study but written for both a scientific and general audience. Study of prehistoric lifeways in Virginia prior to the colonial period.


Clayton’s authorship of this account is uncertain.

Divided into three sections—White, Red, and Black—the author explores who were the early English colonists in America, the colonists relationship with the Indian inhabitants of Virginia, and Negro enslavement during the early colonial period. Based on a series of lectures.


______. “Indian Policy in Early Virginia.” *William and Mary Quarterly*, 3rd series, 1:65-82.


Includes firsthand information on Virginia Indians, especially uses of plants.

An examination of the major problems involved in estimating 17th century Virginia Indian population. Feest examines sources on two test cases—the Powhatan and the Kecoughtan—to reevaluate the reliability of the population estimates given by John Smith (16121624) and William Strachey (1612).

Reproduces nearly all the known early pictures of Carolina and Virginia Indians.

A republication of DeBry’s 1590 edition of Harriot’s 16th century description of the “Virginia” Indians (ex. Indians of what is now coastal North Carolina.) May be difficult to understand the archaic language but well worth the effort. Includes reprints of the famous engravings by DeBry after John White (see Hulton and Quinn, 1964)

A primary source for information on government policy toward Indians and Indian treaties.

Contains the same illustrations as the older work listed below, but with less text.

Fine reproductions of the watercolors and the derivative engravings of coastal North Carolina Indians with critical annotations and commentaries. These drawings are the main source for the appearance of the similar Virginia Indians. Now a rare book but available in large libraries.


A source of information on the government policy toward Indians.


An account of the little-known Wicomiss Indians of Maryland’s upper Eastern Shore and their relations with the English in the 17th century.


A reprint of Captain John Smith’s 17th century writings. A principal source on the Virginia Indians.


One of the most important sources on Virginia Indians at the time of first contact with Europeans. Also contains the longest available vocabulary of the Virginia Algonquian (Powhatan) language.

An historical account focusing on the impact of European settlement on Indian cultures. Organized chronologically from colonial to modern times.


SECTION III: REGIONAL AND TOPICAL STUDIES


Consists of published and unpublished works, indexed by county and general topics, compiled mainly from the library of the Maryland Geological Survey’s Division of Archeology.

Technical study of the prehistoric use of steatite (soapstone) for the manufacture of tools and vessels. References to the Potomac Valley include location of ancient quarries and illustrations of artifacts.


A detailed scientific analysis and classification of prehistoric ceramics, including the Potomac Valley region, for the wellinformed reader. Includes a section by C.G. Holland on projectile point classification.


(For grades 5 and up)


This early scientific study of prehistoric ceramics continues to be a major reference, although local typologies and sequences have been substantially improved (see Evans, 1955).

A scientific study of prehistoric textiles, basketry, and fiber constructions, including weirs and traps, with a focus primarily on the Southeastern United States. Now entirely out of date insofar as typology and sequences are concerned.

Report of excavations of middle Atlantic shell middens, with particular reference to the Pope’s Creek Site in Maryland. Includes a description of both stone tools and pottery sherds. Typology and chronology are entirely out of date.


A children’s book on Maryland Indians. Covers basic aspects of Indian life based on historical references.


A study of the Powhatan Confederacy, with particular reference to population size, location of tribal units, and history of the native Indians of Tidewater Virginia. Now substantially out of date.


Explores how the Nanticoke Indians of Maryland and Delaware were able to survive and maintain their Indian identity, which included living in a marginal environment to prevent continued encroachment of their land by Whites and reduce contact between the two cultures.


Traces the rise of the Chicacoans from A.D. 200 to the early 17th century.


A pamphlet, written for the general public, describing Indian lifeways in the Northern Virginia area.


_______. *Young Pocahontas in the Indian World*. HC Rountree, 1995. (for young readers)


A time-capsule of Powhatan Culture in 1607-1610.


Discusses the descendants of the Algonkian-speaking Powhatan tribes of eastern Virginia who refer to themselves as “citizen” Indians, lacking any land (reservation) of their own and are subject to the jurisdiction of the counties in which they live, unlike “reservated” Indians.


A brief historical survey of Virginia Indians.


Discussion of the historical background and presentday conditions on two Virginia Indian reservations (Pamunkey and Mattaponi) as well as notes on five nonreservation enclaves (The Western Chickahominy Tribe, Eastern Chickahominy Tribe, Upper Mattaponi Tribe, Rappahannock Tribe, the Nansemond descendants).


Monograph describing the cultural life of the descendants of tribes inhabiting the Chesapeake Tidewater area, as of 1925.


Review of the historical development and acculturation of an Indian group that once “formed a somewhat alien enclave within the Powhatan tribes” and today comprises a “compact yet diversified community” living near Richmond, Virginia.


A review of the complex issues involved in identifying Indian communities in the east.

A summary of the scholarly knowledge of the tribal histories and cultures of the Indians of the northeastern U.S. and southeastern Canada from the earliest prehistoric times to the present. Each chapter includes maps, illustrations, and references to other sources of information. The archeology is covered in five chapters:

“Prehistory: Introduction” by James E. Fitting, pp. 1415
“PostPleistocene Adaptations” by Robert E. Funk, pp. 1627
“Regional Cultural Development, 3000 to 300 B.C.” by James A. Tuck, pp. 2843
“Regional Cultural Development, 300 B.C. to A.D. 1000” by James E. Fitting, pp. 4457
“Late Prehistory of the East Coast” by Dean R. Snow, pp. 5869

The cultures and history of the tribes of the Virginia District of Columbia-Maryland coastal region and nearby tribes are covered in six chapters:
“Virginia Algonquians” by Christian F. Feest, pp. 253-270
“Nanticoke and Neighboring Tribes” by Christian F. Feest, pp. 240-252
“North Carolina Algonquians” by Christian F. Feest, pp. 271-281
“Iroquoian Tribes of the Virginia North Carolina Coastal Plain” by Douglas W. Boyce, pp. 282-289
“Delaware” by Ives Goddard, pp. 213-239
“Marginal Groups” by Brewton Berry, pp. 290-295

Related topics are:
“Eastern Algonquian Languages” by Ives Goddard, pp. 7077
“Early IndianEuropean Contacts” by T.J. Brasser, pp. 7888
“Seventeenthcentury Indian Wars” by Wilcomb E. Washburn, pp. 89100


A description of the Powhatan chiefdom, which inhabited most of the Virginia coastal plain, during the settlement of Jamestown in 1607. Author concentrates on the Powhatan socio-political organization and the effects of European contact, which led to the collapse of the chiefdom by the mid-seventeenth century.


An historical account of one of the major Indian tribes of Maryland’s Eastern Shore.


A wellwritten summary of Virginia Indian lifeways incorporating both historical and (older) archeological sources. Organized topically (ex. houses, political organization, religion).


An analytical study of archeological sites and pottery sequences from the Middle Chesapeake region.

**SECTION IV: SITE STUDIES**


A report of the first archeological site investigated in this area of Virginia. Artifacts and archeological features of the site, such as storage pits, refuse pits, hearths, and graves, reveal repeated occupation during the Archaic Period, followed by an intensive Late Prehistoric occupation from A.D. 15001600 of a large palisaded village. Ceramic types suggest possible Siouan influence or occupation.


Scientific report of the Mons Site and of related occupations near Peaks of Otter. Includes a description of artifacts and photographs.
An historical account that establishes, from surface collections, the existence of several distinct periods of habitation in the valley of the Rappahannock, preceding occupation by historic tribes.

Curry, Dennis C. *Feast of the Dead: Aboriginal Ossuaries in Maryland.* Archaeological Society of Maryland Inc. and Maryland Historical Trust Press.


Describes Indian villages on the lower Eastern Shore of Maryland that can be located on the basis of historical documents.

Using aerial photography to locate Indian village sites in Maryland’s Eastern Shore.

The Flint Run Complex includes the Thunderbird Site, a major Eastern PaleoIndian site. The report details excavations, analysis of artifacts, and results of environmental studies to 1973.

A summary report of an archeological survey in Southwestern Virginia, which includes site inventory, artifact analysis, maps, and photographs. The report develops the thesis that Southwestern Virginia was a cultural crossroads reflecting influences from a wide area.

Well illustrated and written for the general public.

A summary of Early and Middle Woodland period sites that includes a chapter on the Accokeek Creek Site, Potomac Valley, pp. 241261, by Robert L. Stephenson.

Describes contact period Indian sites that are mentioned in early written documents.


An archeological/historical investigation of Patawomeke, a fortified Powhatan village in Stafford County, Virginia, visited by Capt. John Smith in 1608.


A detailed comparative analysis of artifacts from a site across the river from Mt. Vernon, Virginia, with interesting chapters on historical background and cultural context. The site was unusually large, occupied over a long time span (pre-500 B.C. to post-A.D. 1700), and extensively excavated, allowing Stephenson to propose a Middle Atlantic Seaboard Culture Province as a distinct conceptual unit.

An excellent technical study of human skeletal material from group reburial pits, or ossuaries. Describes methods of osteological analysis and models for reconstructing the size, composition, and health of prehistoric populations.

Thanks to Dr. Stephen Potter (Regional Archeologist, National Park Service) who reviewed this bibliography.

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