

# CHOPTANK & TUCKAHOE RIVERS

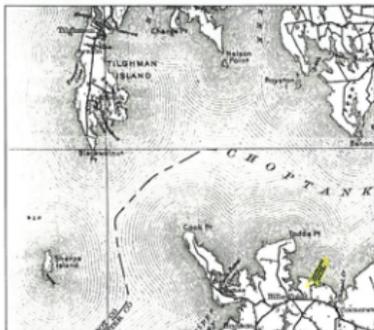
## WATER TRAILS

### MAP GUIDE

Section 1/Mouth of the Choptank at the Chesapeake Bay

Tred Avon River, Sharps Island, Chesapeake Bay

Mile markers 1 (Choptank River Mouth at Chesapeake Bay) thru 6 (Tred Avon River Confluence)



A nautical chart from the 1800s showing Sharps Island in the lower left.

### The Choptank & Tuckahoe Rivers

Welcome to the Choptank & Tuckahoe Rivers Water Trail. A project of the Choptank River Heritage Center in West Denton, the Trail runs through the heart of a Chesapeake Bay region rich in natural, historical and cultural treasures.

The Choptank is the longest river on Maryland's Eastern Shore. The Tuckahoe is its primary tributary. The Trail runs for nearly 80 miles through a diverse and vital natural landscape, with access available at more than 30 public landings.

This is one in a series of six maps devoted to different sections of the water trail.

### Section 1/Mouth of the Choptank

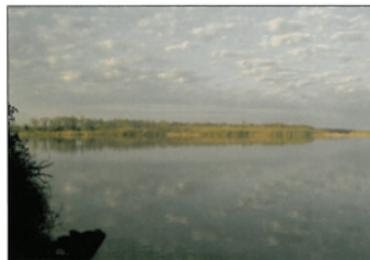
The mouth of the Choptank is a broad river section offering stunning, wide-open views of the Chesapeake Bay and its shores. The river spans nearly four miles across as it empties into the Bay. Today, the river's mouth is framed by Tilghman Island on the north and Taylors Island on the south. Sharps Island once rose between those two, but it eroded over the centuries and finally disappeared in the 1940s.

Some of the most productive oyster beds in the Chesapeake lie here where the river meets the Bay.

The stories of the rough-and-tumble trade of oystering fill books that have been written about "oyster pirates" and "oyster wars." (A major issue facing the Chesapeake environment today involves how to revive an oyster population that has been devastated by deadly diseases.)

This section of the river boasts a rich commercial history. Tilghman Island offered a protected harbor where sailing ships could wait safely for favorable winds. The island's maritime traditions are still alive today at Dogwood Harbor. Scenic Oxford along the Miles River was one of Maryland's first port towns; it later became a center of the oyster trade. Today, it's a sailing hub where races often feature traditional 'log canoes.'

For more information about the many historical and cultural sites in this and other sections of the river, visit [www.riverheritage.org](http://www.riverheritage.org) or call the River Heritage Center at 410-479-4950.



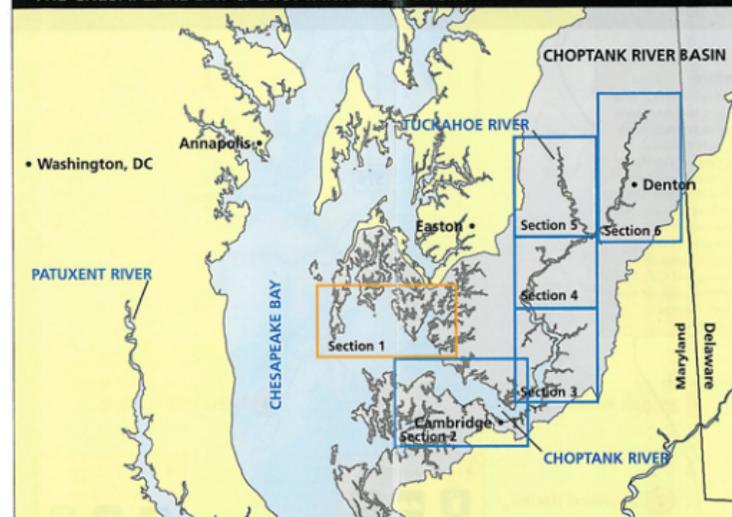
Choptank River vista

### History

**Captain John Smith:** Smith's extraordinary Voyages of Exploration through the Chesapeake region began in 1608. But the famed mariner missed the Choptank entirely, never suspecting that anything of interest might lie beyond the 700-acre Sharps Island that then obscured his view of the mouth of the river.

**Michener's Chesapeake:** Writer James Michener lived along the Miles River while working on his

### THE CHESAPEAKE BAY & CHOPTANK RIVER BASIN



**Section 1/Historic River Sites:** Blackwalnut Cove, Tilghman Island Landing, Wayman Shipyard, Bellvue Ferry Landing, Orems Delight, Benoni Point Light, Oxford-Bellvue Ferry, Plimhimmon, Pecks Point Shipyard, Double Mills Landing, Goldsborough Wharf, Avondale, Skillington Shipyard and Otwell.

famous novel, which follows four families through three centuries of Chesapeake history. His fictional Deven Island sits where Sharps Island used to be.

**Colonial Manors:** The impressive estates along both sides of the river here speak to the rich Colonial history of the Lower Choptank. Some of these estates tie their histories to land grants awarded in the mid-1600s.

**Colonial Settlements:** Both shores of the river here offer a plethora of historic sites and National Register properties. Interestingly, the two shores developed in different ways during the settlement and early contact periods and have distinct stories to tell about life in those days.

The north shore is in Talbot County, which was carved out of Kent County in 1662. Here, a peace treaty enacted early on with the Native Americans created a peaceful environment, facilitating settlement in the mid-1600s by the wealthy gentry, including such figures as Edward Lloyd, Captain Robert Morris, and Richard and Samuel Tilghman.

The Dorchester side was much more of a frontier environment marked by strained relations and frequent clashes between settlers and Native Americans. Key settlers on this shore included such figures as Henry Sewall of Warwickshire, Henry Hooper, Colonel Thomas Ennalls, Anthony LeCompte and Stephan Gary.



# CHOPTANK & TUCKAHOE RIVERS WATER TRAILS MAP GUIDE

## Section 1/Lower River

Mile markers 1 (Choptank River Mouth at Chesapeake Bay) thru 6 (Tred Avon River Confluence)



**Oxford**  
 Founded in 1683, only Oxford and Annapolis were recognized ports for early Colonial shipping in Maryland. Prominent residents included Robert Morris, Sr. whose son was the "financier of the Revolution," sea Captain Jeremiah Banning and Col. Tench Tilghman, aide-de-camp to Gen. George Washington.

- 1 Blackwalnut Cove**  
 • Blackwalnut Point (1843-present)
- 2 Dogwood Harbor**  
 • Tilghman Island Landing (1893-1921)
- 3 Tongers Basin**

**3 Tongers Basin**

• Fee

**2 Dogwood Harbor**

• Fee

**1 Blackwalnut Cove**

• Fee

**4 Balls Creek Landing**

• Fee

**5 Bellevue Landing**

• Fee

**6 Oxford**

• Fee

### Map Legend

-  Boat Ramp
-  Phone
-  Picnic
-  Canoe Launch
-  Nautical Mile Marker
-  Parking
-  Restroom
-  Gas

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**Remember:** It is your responsibility to have the necessary knowledge, skills and equipment for a safe and environmentally-sensitive visit.

Section 1 - Planned river guide trips: detailed itineraries for several excursions including Tilghman Island Passage and Landing at Oxford are available at [www.riverheritage.org](http://www.riverheritage.org).

**Credits:** Sponsorship-Old Harford Town Heritage Center  
 Funding-Maryland Historic Trust & Chesapeake Bay Gateways Network  
 Research-Carl Scheffel Jr.  
 Design-S. L. Rogers Design

# CHOPTANK & TUCKAHOE RIVERS WATER TRAILS MAP GUIDE

## Section 2/Lower Choptank

The Warwick River, Great Bend, Cambridge, Oxford and the Tred Avon River

Mile markers 6 (Chesapeake Bay) through 21 (Jamaica Point)



Sunset on the historic Choptank River

### The Choptank & Tuckahoe Rivers

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### Section 2/Lower Choptank

Here on the Lower Choptank, the river starts its 'Great Bend,' meandering a full 180 degrees (from Cambridge to Frazier Neck Point) while widening from one mile across at the Warwick River to three miles across at the Tred Avon River. Some extraordinary history lies along this bend of the river. This is where the last reservation of the Choptank Indians was located. It was also once home to a legendary Chesapeake shipyard at Jamaica Point.

Cambridge, the seat of Dorchester County, is a city thick with seafaring heritage and maritime lore. The Richardson Maritime Museum is located downtown. The skipjack, *Nathan of Dorchester*, conducts public sails off of Long Wharf. Historical exhibits and information about these Chesapeake Bay Gateways and other nearby attractions are available at the Sailwinds Visitors Center.

For more information about the many historical and cultural sites in this and other sections of the river, visit [www.riverheritage.org](http://www.riverheritage.org) or call the Choptank River Heritage Center at 410-479-4950.

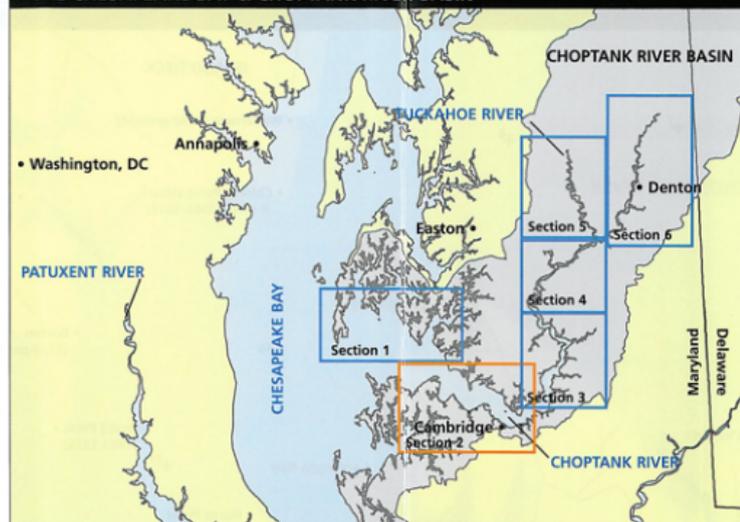


The steamboat *Joppa* plied the Eastern Shore transporting passengers, livestock and trade goods to and from the port in Baltimore from 1885 till 1920.



The *Joppa* shown second from the left, at Light Street docks in Baltimore. Also shown are the *Enoch Pratt*, *Avalon*, *Cambridge* and *Ida* – all steamboats which traveled the Eastern Shore.

### THE CHESAPEAKE BAY & CHOPTANK RIVER BASIN



Section 2/Historic River Sites: Jamaica Point, Indian Purchase, Greenbury Point, Sherman's Landing, Chancellors Point Ferry, Ennals Ferry, Shoal Creek, Ferry Farm & Ferry Farm Ferry, Cambridge and Trappe.

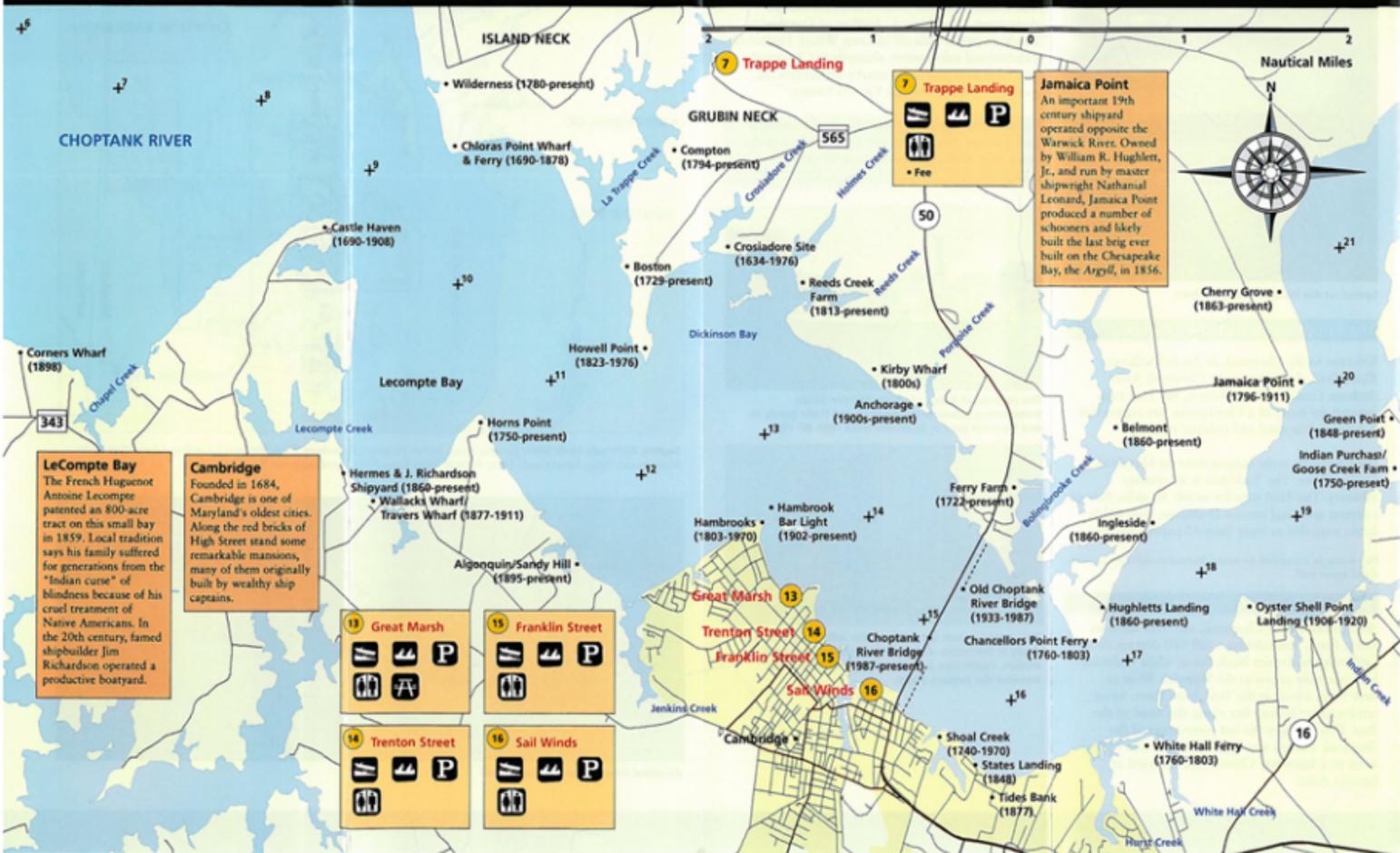


An aerial view of the Choptank River

# CHOPTANK & TUCKAHOE RIVERS WATER TRAILS MAP GUIDE

Section 2/Lower Middle River

Mile markers 6 (Chesapeake Bay) through 21 (Cherry Grove)



**LeCompte Bay**  
The French Huguenot Antoine Lecompte patented an 800-acre tract on this small bay in 1859. Local tradition says his family suffered for generations from the "Indian curse" of blindness because of his cruel treatment of Native Americans. In the 20th century, famed shipbuilder Jim Richardson operated a productive boatyard.

**Cambridge**  
Founded in 1684, Cambridge is one of Maryland's oldest cities. Along the red bricks of High Street stand some remarkable mansions, many of them originally built by wealthy ship captains.

**Jamaica Point**  
An important 19th century shipyard operated opposite the Warwick River. Owned by William R. Hughlett, Jr., and run by master shipwright Nathaniel Leonard, Jamaica Point produced a number of schooners and likely built the last brig ever built on the Chesapeake Bay, the *Argyll*, in 1856.

## Map Legend

- Boat Ramp
- Phone
- Picnic
- Canoe Launch
- Parking
- Restroom
- Gas
- Nautical Mile Marker

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Section 2 - Planned river guide trips: detailed itineraries for several excursions including Cambridge Captains Walk and Cambridge Lady Steamboat Landing Cruise are available at [www.riverheritage.org](http://www.riverheritage.org).

**Credits:** Sponsorship-Old Harford Town Heritage Center Funding-Maryland Historic Trust & Chesapeake Bay Gateways Network Research-Carl Scheffel Jr. Design-S. L. Rogers Design

# CHOPTANK & TUCKAHOE RIVERS WATER TRAILS MAP GUIDE

## Section 3/Lower Middle Choptank Choptank, Hunting Creek and Cabin Creek

Mile markers 21 (Cabin Creek) through  
29 (Landing Neck)



## The Choptank & Tuckahoe Rivers

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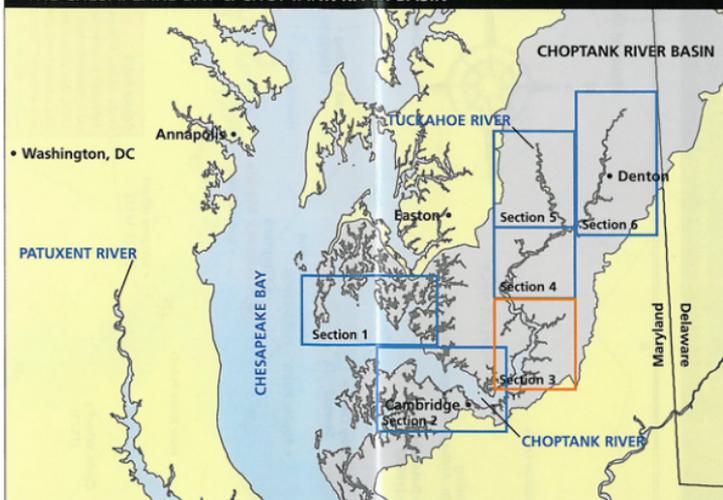
## Section 3/Lower Middle River

At Dover, the Choptank is one-fourth of a mile wide, but it broadens to more than a mile across by the time it reaches the Warwick River. In centuries gone by, the plantations and small towns in this area relied upon the river as the commercial "super-highway" of their day for trade and travel. Before the railroad came along, the many wharves along the shores also served the inland canneries that processed fruits and vegetables from local farms for far-off markets.



An aerial view of Hunting Creek

## THE CHESAPEAKE BAY & CHOPTANK RIVER BASIN



**Section 3/Historic Sites:** Warwick Manor, Cherry Grove, S. F. Collins Steamboat Wharf, Kates Point Landing, Clarks Wharf, Bow Knee Point, Poplar Point, Windy Hill, Marshy Creek Sawmill, Duke Landing, Back Landing, Wrights Wharf, Town of Choptank, Lloyds Landing, Frazier Neck Point, Smith Landing and Dr. Anthony Thompson Plantation.

The river also played an important role in the Underground Railroad, which many enslaved African-Americans followed to freedom in the years before the Civil War. Black maritime workers and dockhands were an essential part of a network that passed along news and information, connecting Eastern Shore slaves with the outside world. The famed Underground Railroad conductor Harriet Tubman was active in this area; she engineered one of her most famous escapes from the spot called Poplar Neck.

For more information about the many historical and cultural sites in this and other sections of the river, visit [www.riverheritage.org](http://www.riverheritage.org) or call the Choptank River Heritage Center at 410-479-4950.

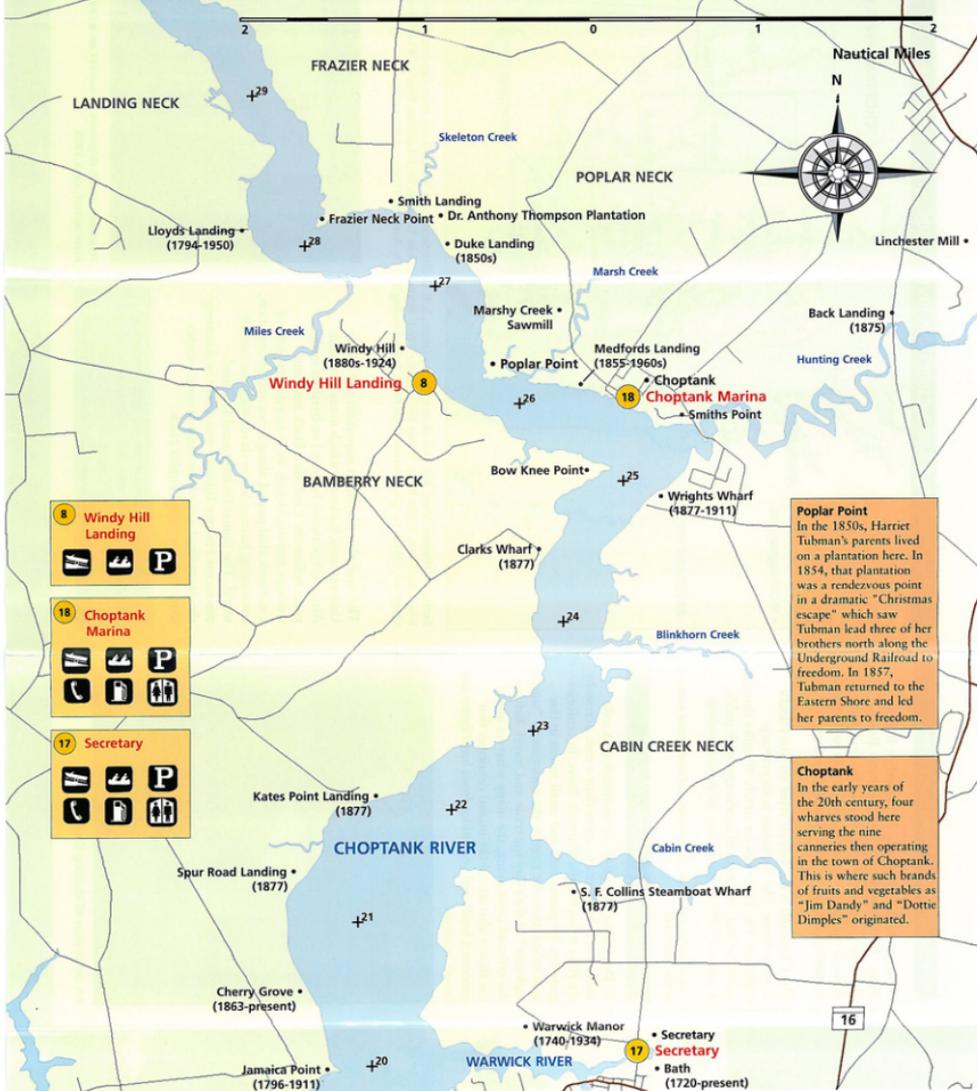


Tomatoes await shipment to market on a Choptank River wharf, circa 1900.

# CHOPTANK & TUCKAHOE RIVERS WATER TRAILS MAP GUIDE

Section 3/Lower Middle River

Mile markers 21 (Cabin Creek) through 29 (Landing Neck)



**8 Windy Hill Landing**

**18 Choptank Marina**

**17 Secretary**

**Poplar Point**  
 In the 1850s, Harriet Tubman's parents lived on a plantation here. In 1854, that plantation was a rendezvous point in a dramatic "Christmas escape" which saw Tubman lead three of her brothers north along the Underground Railroad to freedom. In 1857, Tubman returned to the Eastern Shore and led her parents to freedom.

**Choptank**  
 In the early years of the 20th century, four wharves stood here serving the nine canneries then operating in the town of Choptank. This is where such brands of fruits and vegetables as "Jim Dandy" and "Dottie Dimples" originated.

## Map Legend

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- Phone
- Picnic
- Canoe Launch
- Parking
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- Gas
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Section 3 - Planned river guide trips: a detailed itinerary for an excursion focused on the Underground Railway is available at [www.riverheritage.org](http://www.riverheritage.org).

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# CHOPTANK & TUCKAHOE RIVERS

## WATER TRAILS

### MAP GUIDE

Section 4/Upper Middle Choptank  
Ancient Dover, Kings Creek and the  
Tuckahoe Confluence

Mile markers 30 (Dover Town) through  
39 (Tuckahoe Confluence)



#### The Choptank & Tuckahoe Rivers

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#### Section 4/Upper Middle River

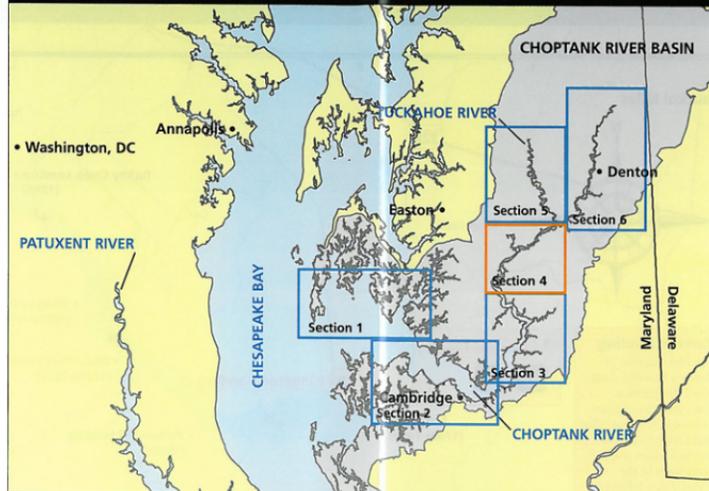
Remnants of the river's maritime history abound on the Upper Middle Choptank. The many old wharves and landings along these shores date to the days of schooners and steamboats. Some of the first large estates and plantations of colonial times sprung up in this area. The region's rich farmland supplied goods to the numerous canneries that flourished on this part of the river in the early 1900s.

Here, too, lie the hardwood and pine forests of Martinak State Park, a great bird watching spot. The Choptank's deepest waters are found at the river's



Aerial view of Kings Creek

#### THE CHESAPEAKE BAY & CHOPTANK RIVER BASIN

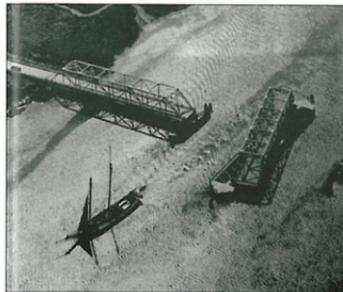


**Section 4/Historic Sites:** Hogs Island Landing, Dover Ferry, Barkers Landing, Dover Bridge, East and West Providence Landings, Kingstown, Picture Hill Landing, McCartheys Landing, Wing Landing, Ganey's Wharf and Gilpin Point.

confluences with the Tuckahoe (40 feet) and Kings Creek (50 feet). These are two of the many interesting tributaries along the Upper Middle Choptank. Locals call the smaller of these channels "guts," an odd-sounding name for streams so often lined with beautiful swaying grasses and awash in vibrant wildflowers.

The Nature Conservancy owns and protects 250 acres of important marshland at Kings Creek Preserve. The public boardwalk and observation deck at the preserve are accessible from the river, one-half mile up Kings Creek.

For more information about the many historical and cultural sites in this and other sections of the river, visit [www.riverheritage.org](http://www.riverheritage.org) or call the Choptank River Heritage Center at 410-479-4950.



A schooner passing through the bridge at Dover, circa 1940. Many sailing ships were converted to steam power in the 1800s and operated well into the 20th century.

# CHOPTANK & TUCKAHOE RIVERS WATER TRAILS MAP GUIDE

Section 4/Middle River

Mile markers 30 (Dover Town) through 39 (Tuckahoe Confluence)



## Barker's Landing

The first mention of Barker's Landing dates to a 1709 petition requesting that a town be established here. That never happened, but mariners often stopped hereabouts in the decades that followed so they could rid the outsides of their vessels of wood-boring worms that can't survive the levels of freshwater in this environment.

## 9 Kingston Landing



Kingston • (1700s-1900s)

## 9 Kingston Landing

Kingston • (1700s-1900s)

Dover Bridge • (1865-present)

Dover • (1750-1796)

rs Landing • (1709-1820)  
er Ferry • s-1780s)

## 19 Dover Bridge

Hog Island Landing • (1866-1875)

CHOPTANK RIVER

## Gilpin Point

Colonel William Richardson of Gilpin Point served under George Washington and commanded the Eastern Shore battalion called "Maryland Flying Camp" in the 1776 Battle of Harlem Heights. Richardson is buried here, on a peaceful riverside parcel that's open to visits by paddlers and boaters.

## Kingston

Kingston was one of three designated "Port Towns" established by the Maryland Assembly in 1683 as tobacco trading posts and warehouses on the Choptank River. Steamboat wharves and warehouses also operated here before the town died out in the 19th century.

## Dover

Historical source materials mention "a great store at Dover" dating to the mid-1700s. This town served briefly as the seat of Talbot County, but declined and eventually disappeared after Eastern became the county seat in 1786.

## 20 Ganey's Wharf



## 19 Dover Bridge



• Caution: strong currents

## Map Legend

- Boat Ramp
- Parking
- Phone
- Restroom
- Picnic
- Gas
- Canoe Launch
- Nautical Mile Marker

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Section 4 - Planned river guide trips: detailed itineraries for several excursions including Kings Creek Preserve, Blooming Guts (Berry Run) and Revolutionary Trail are available at [www.riverheritage.org](http://www.riverheritage.org).

Credits: Sponsorship-Old Harford Town Heritage Center  
Funding-Maryland Historic Trust & Chesapeake Bay Gateways Network  
Research-Carl Scheffel Jr.  
Design-S. L. Rogers Design

# CHOPTANK & TUCKAHOE RIVERS

## WATER TRAILS

### MAP GUIDE

Section 5/Tuckahoe River

Mile markers 39 (Choptank Confluence)  
through 16 (Tuckahoe State Park at Crouse Mill Pond)



An aerial view of the Tuckahoe River

#### The Choptank & Tuckahoe Rivers

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#### Section 5/Tuckahoe River

A river unto itself, the Tuckahoe has a natural beauty all its own. Narrower than the Choptank, it curls this way and that and then back again through banks of tall grasses and reeds. A journey on the Tuckahoe tends to be peaceful and isolated, the silence broken only by birdcalls and the rustling of leaves.

Things were not always so quiet on the Tuckahoe. This river had its steamboats and shipyards, and its shores were dotted with canneries and wharves

all the way up to the towns of Hillsboro and Queen Anne. The Tuckahoe narrows sharply above Hillsboro and soon starts running under a thick canopy of trees. Native Americans used to hunt in these forests. Today, the forests are accessible along trails at both Adkins Arboretum and Tuckahoe State Park.

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The steamboat *Minnie Wheeler*

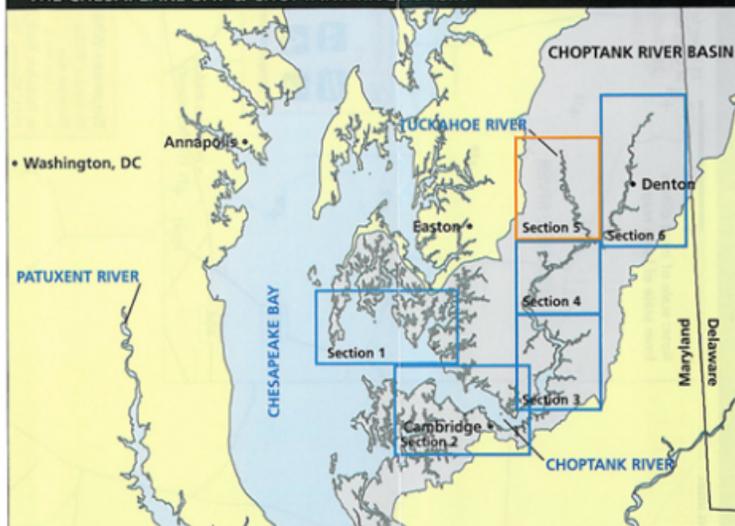


The remains of a wharf

#### History

**Wheeler Transportation Line:** In the age of steamboats, only one line was based on the Eastern Shore. It was founded by Caleb Clark Wheeler, an illiterate entrepreneur who ran a fleet out of Hillsboro that included the *Easton*, the *Chesapeake*, and the *Minnie Wheeler*.

#### THE CHESAPEAKE BAY & CHOPTANK RIVER BASIN



**Section 5/Historic River Sites:** Todd Landing, New Bridge, Reese Landing, Long Point, Cowards Point, Doans Landing, Coveys Landing, Waymans Wharf, Frederick Douglass Birthplace, Stoney Point, Hardcastle Mill, Hillsboro Bridge, Queen Anne Bridge, and Maryland and Delaware Bridge.



Stoney Point Landing



# CHOPTANK & TUCKAHOE RIVERS WATER TRAILS MAP GUIDE

## Section 5/ Tuckahoe River

Mile markers 39 (Choptank Confluence) through 16 (Tuckahoe State Park at Crouse Mill Pond)

### Frederick Douglass Birthplace

Abolitionist Frederick Douglass was born a slave on the Tuckahoe. He escaped bondage in 1838 and then went on to a storied career as an orator, activist, author and diplomat. As an old man, 40 years after gaining his freedom, Douglass made a pilgrimage back to the log cabin at the head of Kentucky Ravine where he was born.

River map continued on inset

28 Hillsboro Landing

27 Stoney Point Landing

Note: scale of inset differs from scale of large map

15 miles to terminus at Long Marsh Ditch

29 Tuckahoe State Park

TUCKAHOE RIVER

29 Tuckahoe State Park



Frederick Douglass Birthplace • (1817)

Waymans Wharf (1820-1911)

Covey's Landing 12  
Covey's Landing • (1896-1911)



Doans Landing • Cowards Point (1896-1911)

### Waymans Wharf

Alexander Walker Wayman was born a free black in Tuckahoe Neck in 1821. Wayman became a key figure in the growth of the African Methodist Episcopal (A.M.E.) Church. His work in support of education and freedom for African-Americans has earned him comparisons to Frederick Douglass, who was born on the other side of the river.

28 Hillsboro Landing



Reese's Landing 11  
Reese Landing • (1877-1898)

Long Point • (1880s)

New Bridge 10

Tuckahoe Bridge (1906-1911)

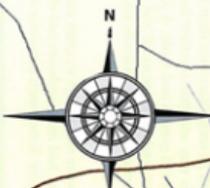
TUCKAHOE NECK

TUCKAHOE RIVER

Todd Landing •

Prices Landing (1800-1820)

CHOPTANK RIVER



Nautical Miles



### Map Legend



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Section 5 - Planned river guide trips: detailed itineraries for Douglass Sojourn, Wheeler Passage, Wayman Pilgrimage and Tuckahoe Canoe Adventure are available at [www.riverheritage.org](http://www.riverheritage.org).

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Funding-Maryland Historic Trust & Chesapeake Bay Gateways Network  
Research-Carl Scheffel Jr.

# CHOPTANK & TUCKAHOE RIVERS

## WATER TRAILS

### MAP GUIDE

Section 6/Upper River  
Tuckahoe Confluence, Denton, Greensboro  
and the headwaters

Mile markers 39 (Tuckahoe Confluence) through  
53 (Christian Park)



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### Section 6/Upper River

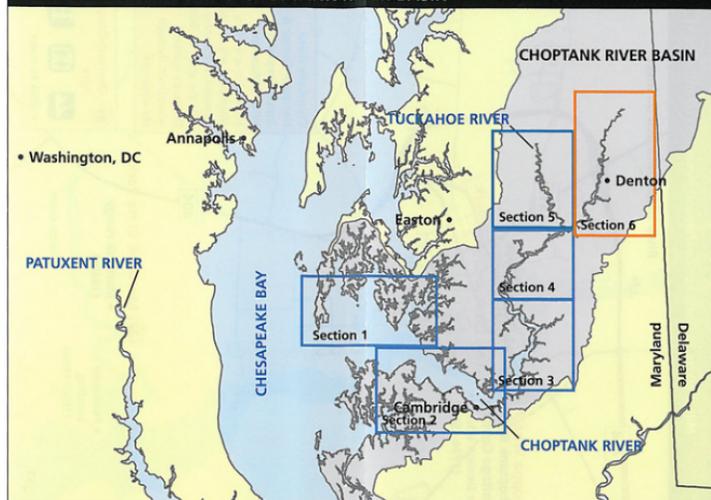
Here on the Upper Choptank, more than 40 miles from the Chesapeake Bay, the river follows a narrow course through dense forests where Native Americans once hunted. Historically, this stretch of the Choptank has been an important spawning ground for perch, rockfish, shad and herring.

In Colonial times, the Upper Choptank was a vital transportation link. Waterborne trade from points



An aerial view of the West Denton

### THE CHESAPEAKE BAY & CHOPTANK RIVER BASIN



**Section 6/Historic River Sites:** Downes Landing, Two Johns, Keens Landing, Potters Landing, Lyford Landing, Pealiquor Landing, Martinak Pungy, West Denton Wharf, Choptank Heritage Center, Denton Bridge Adams Landing, Melvills Wharf, Hardcastle Mill, Smith Landing, Sangston Landing, Passage Landing and Brick Mill Landing.

south met up with overland routes to Philadelphia at Greensboro, the northernmost navigable point on the river for commercial vessels in the 1700s. Today, Greensboro is a town of 1,600 residents, boasting a riverside park and streets lined with Victorian homes.

Denton, the seat of Caroline County, was established in 1781. A thriving port town through the early 20th century, it now has 3,000 residents. The town's maritime history is on display at the Choptank River Heritage Center & Joppa Steamboat Wharf Museum in West Denton, located right on the river opposite the Town of Denton. In town, the Museum of Rural Life celebrates agricultural traditions that have developed in Caroline County over three centuries.

For more information about the many historical and cultural sites in this and other sections of the river, visit [www.riverheritage.org](http://www.riverheritage.org) or call the Choptank River Heritage Center at 410-479-4951

### History

**St. Joan's Path:** Maryland Route 480 follows the route of St. Joan's Path, an ancient Native American trail used by the Choptank and Nanticoke tribes.

**Shaded Passage:** The forests that form the canopy of trees over the river above Greensboro supported a flourishing fur trade among early European explorers. Later, they served as an important source of timber for shipbuilders and railroad companies.

