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Potter, Stephen R.

1993 *Commoners, Tribute, and Chiefs: The Development of Algonquian Culture in the Potomac Valley*. University Press of Virginia, Charlottesville.

This archaeological and ethnohistorical account focuses primarily on the Late Woodland period Chicacoans, one of many Algonquian-speaking chiefdoms spread throughout the Chesapeake Bay region. Their territory on the south shore of the Potomac positioned them between the powerful Powatan chieftom of Virginia and the Conoy chieftom of Southern Maryland, allowing the author to compare and contrast the development of the various groups encountered in the region by Europeans at contact.

Potter begins his examination of the Chicacoans around A.D. 200 at the beginning of late Middle Woodland period. He does so because it is accepted that around this time Algonquian-speakers migrated to the Chesapeake region (p.3) and because a number of the Late Woodland sites in his study area contained Middle Woodland components (p. 68-77).

In order to place the Late Woodland Chicacoans in context, Potter presents Chapter 3, entitled "The Late Prehistory of the Lower Potomac River Basin." He begins his discussion with The Mockley Phase (pp.103-114), where he summarizes a number of period excavated sites and research articles from not only the Potomac River basin, but also along the Rappahannock and James Rivers and estuarine Maryland. Potter concludes that both diffuse and focused adaptive strategies were employed to provide a burgeoning and increasingly sedentary population with a variety of foodstuffs (pp. 139-140).