Four hundred islands disappeared. 
The Chesapeake Bay swallowed them.

She’s a hungry body, 
her water rising since Maryland 
was settled four hundred years ago.

The bay smacks her lips 
on the jigsaw-puzzle state.

She devours as much land 
as she wants. 
Chesapeake Bay is a fat,

full body of water, 
proud of her weight.

She shakes salt 
onto the coast, 
turning the land 

into a ghost.