

Jamestown, VA



James Fort skeleton JR1225B, *in situ*/Skeleton of a male, 14 to 15 years old, with a small stone arrowpoint. Credit: APVA Preservation Virginia/Historic Jamestowne. Image courtesy: Chip Clark

The Roanoke Colony

1585: Sir Walter Raleigh sent John White and 100+ men to build a settlement on Roanoke Island off the coast of the Carolinas, left and when returned:

- Settlement failed, but had some positive impacts (IDs of plants, animals; maps and pics of natives)

“CROATOAN” and original settlers’ whereabouts still unknown today





The last English attempt at colonization had been
the “Lost Colony” of Roanoke in 1587
-Financial hit for Sir Walter Raleigh

English Motivations

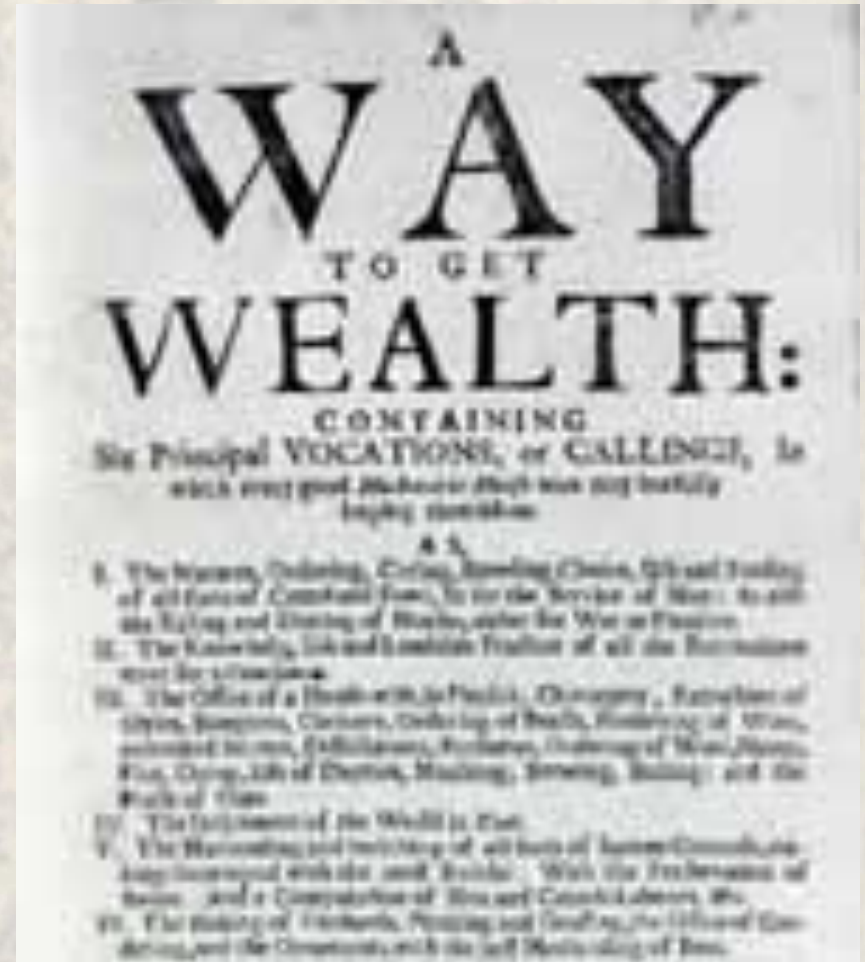
- Primogeniture decreed that only eldest sons were eligible to inherit land estates; younger sons were forced to seek their fortunes elsewhere
- Landlords were “enclosing” cropland for sheep grazing, forcing many farmers to leave



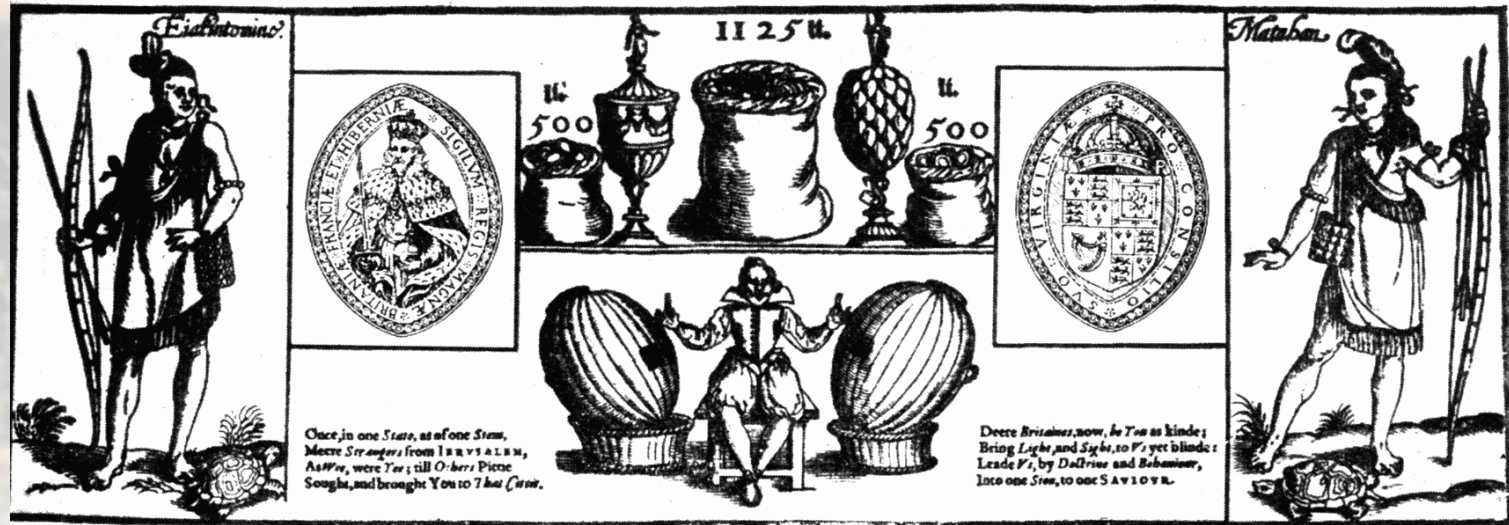
Joint Stock Companies

Shares of a company are sold to investors, who expect a profit in return

What advantages does a Joint Stock Company offer over a single investor?



A Declaration for the certaine time of drawving the great standing Lottery



The VA Company approached King James I of England in 1606

VIRGINIA CHARTERS.

NUMBER I.

King JAMES I.'s LETTERS PATENT to Sir Thomas Gates, Sir George Somers, and others, for two severall Colonies and Plantations, to be made in VIRGINIA, and other Parts and Territories of AMERICA. Dated April 10, 1606.

I. JAMES, by the grace of God, King of England, Scotland, France, and Ireland, Defender of the Faith, &c. Whereas our loving and well disposed subjects, Sir Thomas Gates, and Sir George Somers, Knights, Richard Hackluit, Clerk, Prebendary of Westminster, and Edward-Maria Wingfield, Thomas Hanham, and Raleigh Gilbert, Esqrs. William Parker and George Popham, Gentlemen, and divers others of our loving subjects, have been humble suitors unto us, that We would vouchsafe unto them

and may in time bring the infidels and savages, living in those parts, to human civility, and to a settled and quiet government; Do, by these our letters patents, graciously accept of, and agree to, their humble and well intended desires.

IV. And do therefore, for Us, our heirs and successors, Grant and agree, that the said Sir Thomas Gates, Sir George Somers, Richard Hackluit, and Edward-Maria Wingfield, adventurers of and for our city of London, and all such others, as are, or

Successfully requested a charter that would allow the creation and settlement of two colonies along the N. American coast

NOVA BRITANNIA:

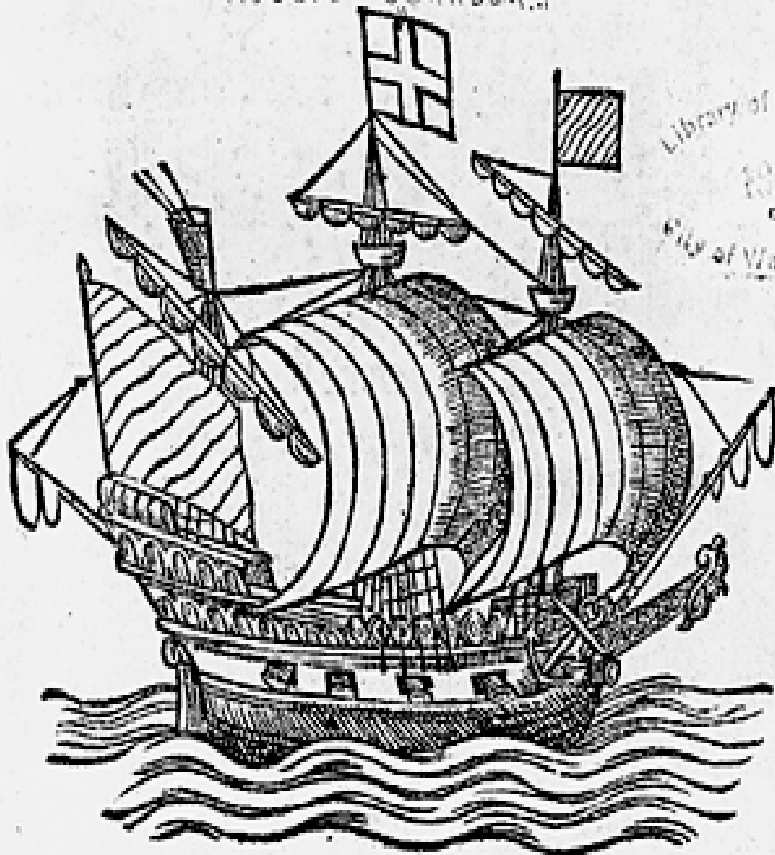
J. Bar

OFFERING MOST

Excellent fruites by Planting in
VIRGINIA.

Exciting all such as be well affected
to further the same.

Robert Johnson.



Encouraging Settlement

The VA Company promises
things to encourage men to go to
N. America

Guaranteed colonists the
same rights/protection as
Englishmen

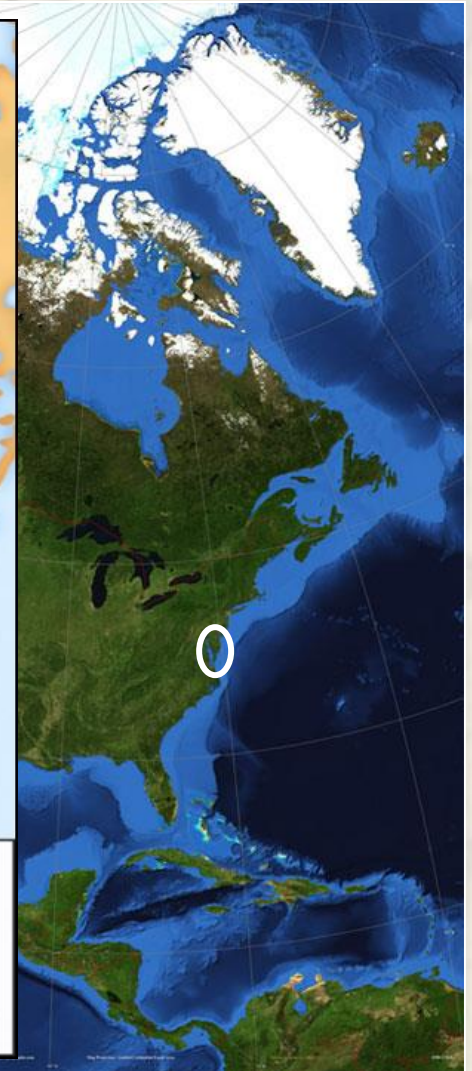
Future issues?

Jamestown

- In late 1606, the VA Company sends three ships to the Eastern coast of N. America
- Arrive in the spring of 1607
 - At the mouth of the Chesapeake Bay
 - Attacked by Indians, so they pressed inland
- On 24 May 1607, about 100 colonists land at what would become Jamestown, on the James River



Geography



Geography

Landscape



- Flat, marshy land
- Fertile soil
- Long growing season

- Wide and slow moving
- Good for fishing/shipping



Waterways

Problems



- Spreaders of disease

Jamestown Fort and Settlement Map



1607

- English colonists built a fortified settlement and immediately begin hunting for gold

- “Gentlemen” colonists refused to work for themselves

 - Spent little time hunting or planting

- By January 1608, only 38 colonists were still alive



John Smith

- Member of the first group of settlers
- Listed as one of the seven council members chosen to govern the colonies
- Captured by NAs in December 1607
- “Saved” from execution by Pocahontas



Smith's True Contribution



- After his release from the Powhatans, Smith took control of Jamestown
- Imposed military discipline
 - Organized settlers into work gangs
 - Decreed “he that will not worke shall not eate”

Near Demise of Jamestown

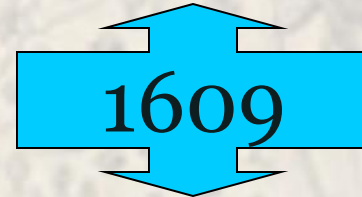
“The Starving Time”

104 colonists arrive



By spring 1608: 38 survive

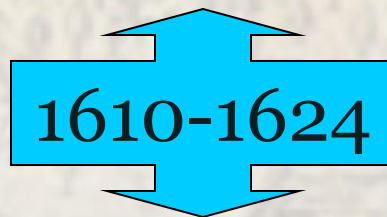
300 more colonists



By spring 1610: 60 survive

Adult life
expectancy:
40 years old

10,000 colonists



1624: 1,000

Infant mortality
rate
(death before 5)
80%

Tobacco: The Key to Survival

Settlers had been searching for a marketable product

- Begin growing tobacco around 1610



High demand
would have made
it extremely
profitable

Native VA leaf
was of poor
quality

- John Rolfe smuggles seedlings from the Caribbean
- These seeds will grow crops of better quality, creating high demand for VA tobacco





Labor Force in Jamestown

For freight or passage apply to Scot and Brown, merchants in Glasgow, or Captain William M'Cunn, in Greenock.

W A N T E D,

To go to Virginia, under indentures for a few years;

A Young Man, who understands L A T I N GREEK, and MATHEMATICS, to serve as a Tutor in a gentleman's family.

A lad who has served an apprenticeship as a surgeon, to live with one of his own profession.

Two Gardeners, who understands their business well, particularly the work in a garden.

These, properly recommended, will meet with suitable encouragement, on applying to Buchanan and Simson, merchants in Glasgow.

THAT the FOGGAGE of the Laigh Park of Boogs, consisting of sixty four acres, or thereabouts, is to be set till December next, and entered to

- Labor shortage became an issue

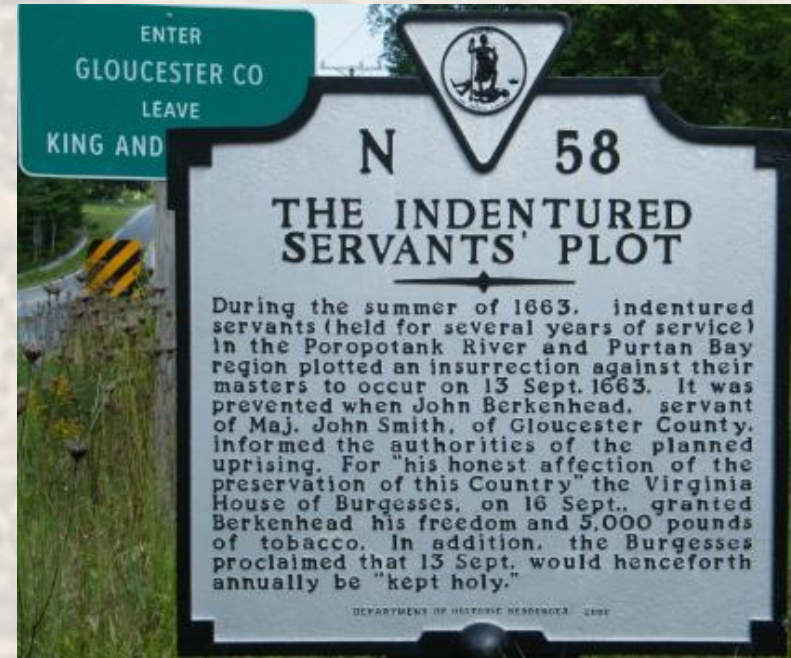
Indentured Servitude

Laborer who agreed to a fixed term (4-7 years) in exchange for free passage to VA

- Master/Sponsor provided food, shelter, clothing

Laborers came by the thousands

- Died in large numbers
- Often mistreated
- Later become rebellious, causing planters in VA to turn to slave labor instead of indentured servants (Bacon's Rebellion)



The Headright System (1618)



- Used as a way to attract new settlers to the region and address the labor shortage
- New settlers who paid their way to VA received 50 acres of land

1619: An Important Year For Jamestown

Three important changes

120 pounds of tobacco



House of Burgesses

House of Burgesses

- 1st Representative Democracy in the colonies
- Met once a year
- Actions needed governor approval (who were appointed by directors in England)



Relationship with the Natives

Jamestown was settled right in the middle of the land controlled by NA leader Powhatan

- Chief of the Powhatan Confederacy of approx. 30 tribes
- Father of Pocahontas



- Originally sent food to colonists, assuming accepting food was accepting dependence and submission
- Colonists began to seize corn forcibly



Anglo-Powhatan Wars

- Pocahontas died in 1617
 - Severed the tie between the English and Natives
- Powhatan dies in 1618
 - His younger brother will take over as leader (dislikes English settlers)
- Rolfe and 346 others were killed in 1622, and the 2nd Anglo-Powhatan War began in 1644; natives defeated and banned from their land in 1646
- By 1669, only 2,000 NAs remained in VA (10%); 1685 considered extinct

Lasting Result of War with Natives

The VA Company is bankrupt



Royal inquest into attacks finds that ten times more colonists had died from starvation and disease than at the hands of NAs

King James
dissolves VA
Company in
1624

House of Burgesses
is allowed to
continue to self-
govern, but their
actions are
monitored by the
crown and its
advisors

VA becomes
a royal
colony in
1625

The Colony Spreads

Large
plantations

Widely
scattered



VA Governor William Berkeley

- Fur trade with NAs
- Ignored attacks on backcountry settlers



Bacon's Rebellion - 1676

NA disputes between colonists
over the frontier

Coastal planters were doing much
better than frontier planters in
many ways:

High taxes, low prices for tobacco,
and resentment against special
privileges given those close to
the VA Governor

Frontier colonists ask for
protection from VA Governor,
but were denied



Bacon's Rebellion - 1676

Bacon's Rebellion: Nathaniel

Bacon led frontier colonists and indentured servants in a rebellion; burned Jamestown

-Showed first signs of discontent with leadership in the English colonies; NA attacks did cease for a few years, but it failed to solve the issue of the VA govt/aristocracy

-Caused a move away from indentured servant use to the importation & use of slave labor

