

Virginia Research: Four Centuries of History and Genealogy

17th-Century Research: Birth of a Colony

Ann G. Lawthers, Genealogist
February 2023

THE BRUE FAMILY LEARNING CENTER



American Ancestors®
by NEW ENGLAND HISTORIC GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

Meet today's presenter



Ann G. Lawthers
Genealogist

OVERVIEW

- **Presentation** (60 mins.)
- **Q&A** (30 mins.)

Overview

History

Geography

Indigenous communities

Virginia Company, Jamestown, & Tobacco

Published Resources

Finding aids

Compilations of records and genealogies

Journals and periodicals

Extant Records

Census

Church and cemetery

Probate

Land

Court

Strategies

Understand time and place

FAN Club / Cluster Research



*Voice of
Ann Lawthers,
Genealogist*

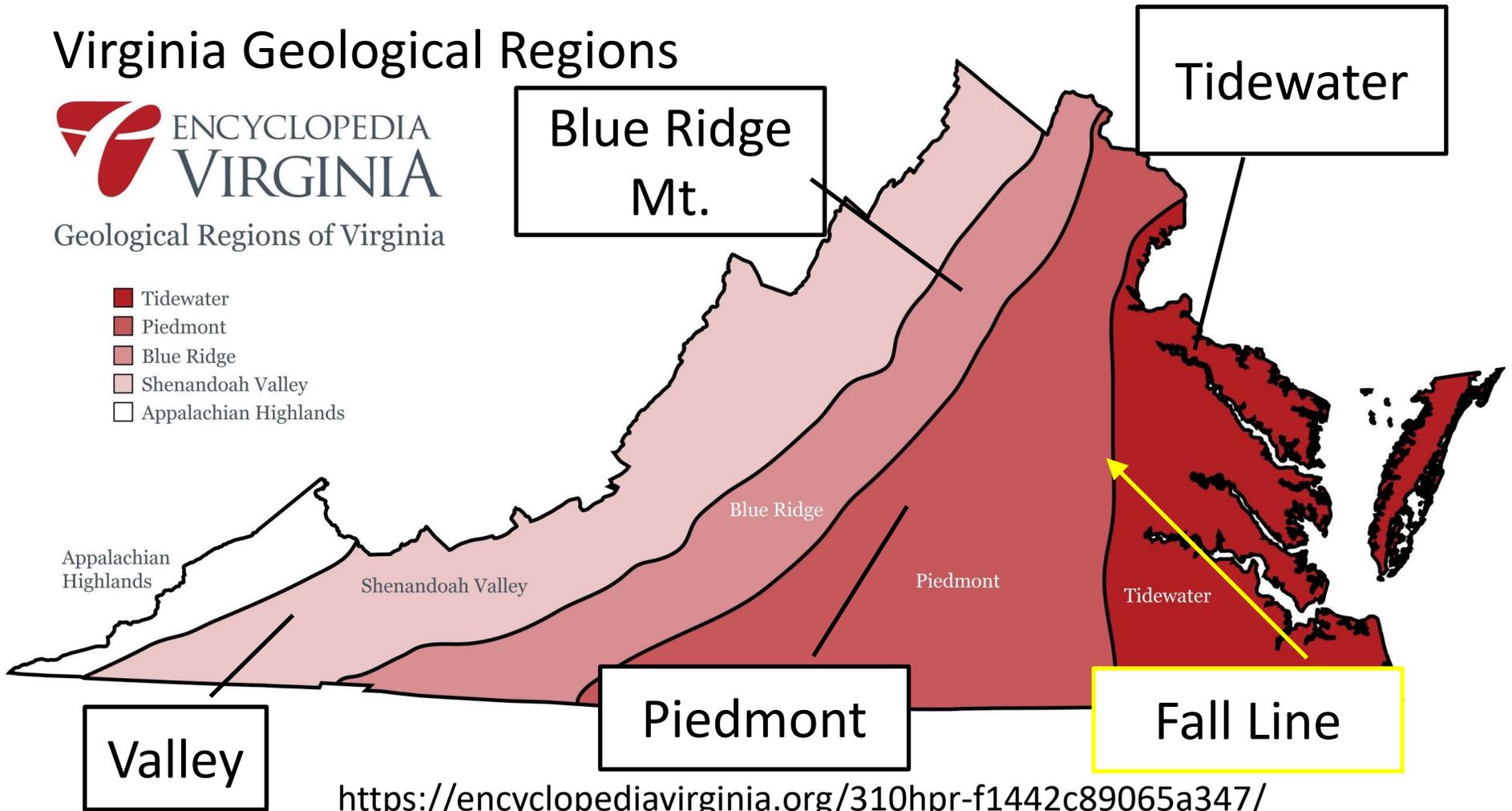
Geography

Virginia Geological Regions



Geological Regions of Virginia

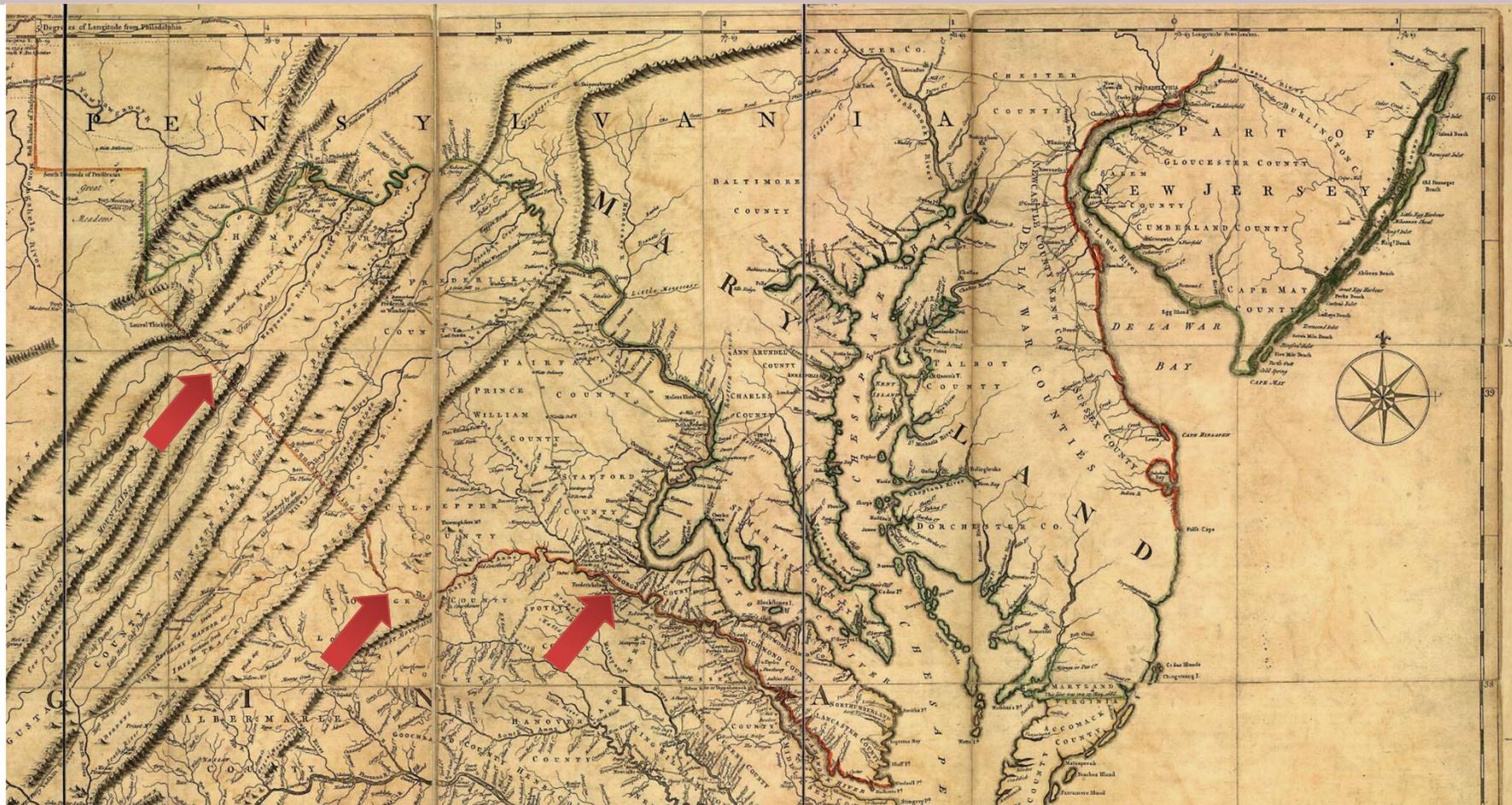
- Tidewater
- Piedmont
- Blue Ridge
- Shenandoah Valley
- Appalachian Highlands



Peninsulas

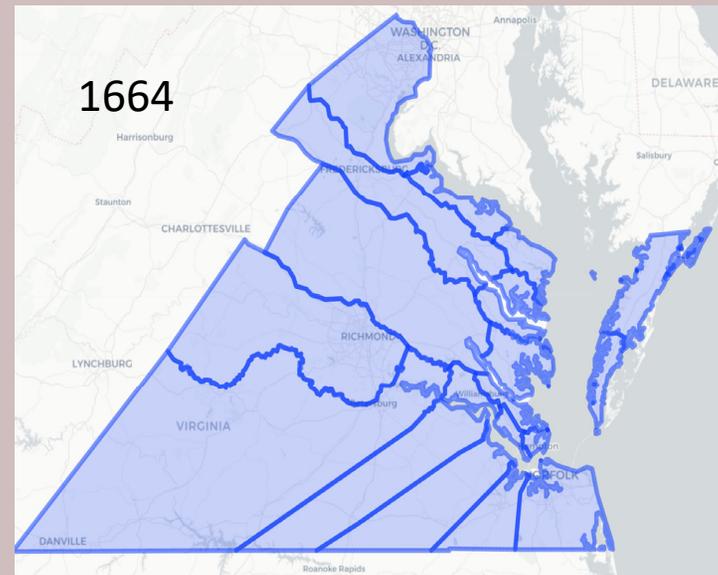
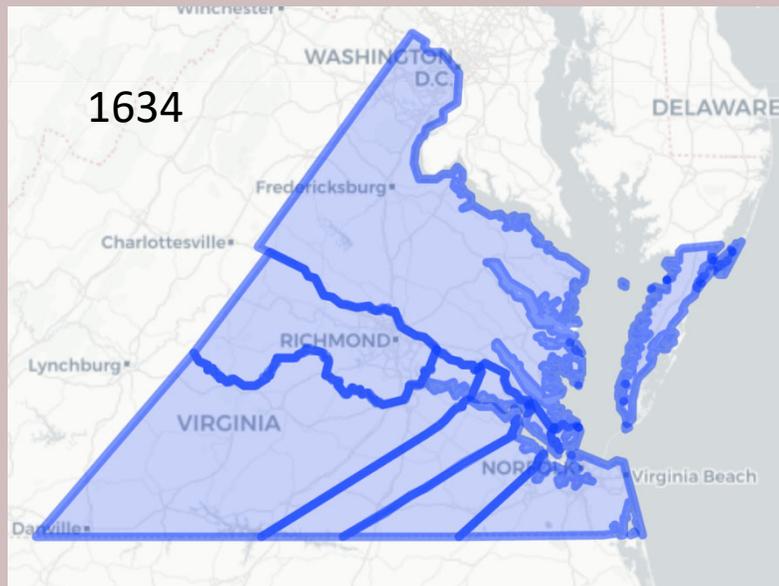


Map of Northern Neck

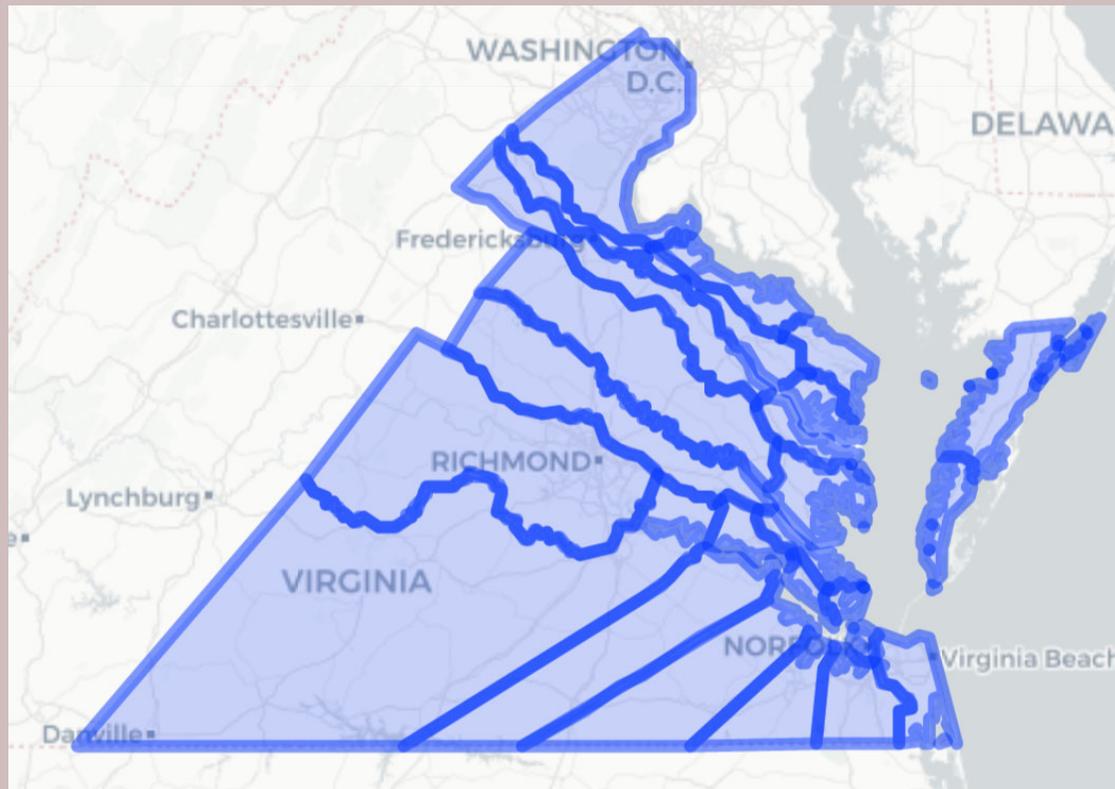


LOC: Joshua Fry, 1755 A map of the most inhabited part of Virginia containing the whole province of Maryland with part of Pensilvania [sic], New Jersey and North Carolina.

Counties 1634, 1664, 1692



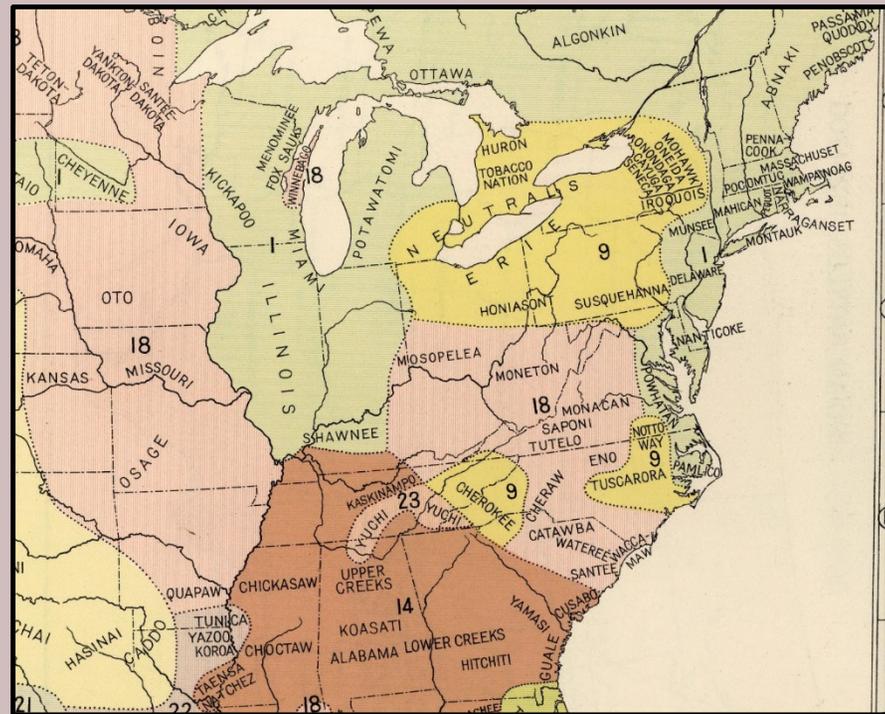
Counties 1692



Indigenous Virginians

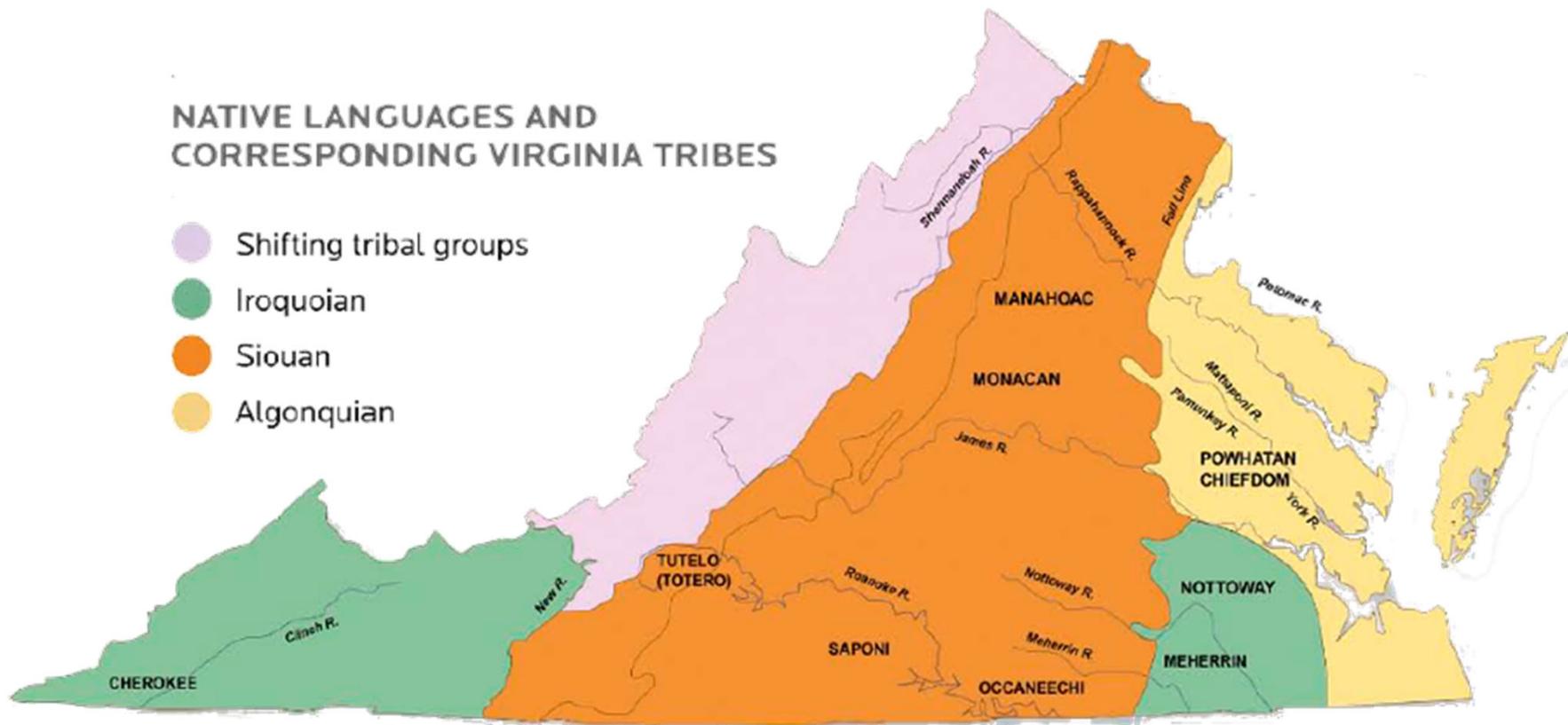
Indigenous People and Language Groups

- Algonquin (green on map)
 - Abenaki
 - Massachusetts
 - Powhatan
- Iroquois (yellow on map)
 - Iroquois in New York
 - Cherokee in south
- Catawban (pink on map)
 - Catawba
 - Santee
- Muskegeon (brown on map)
 - Creek
 - Choctaw
 - Chickasaw



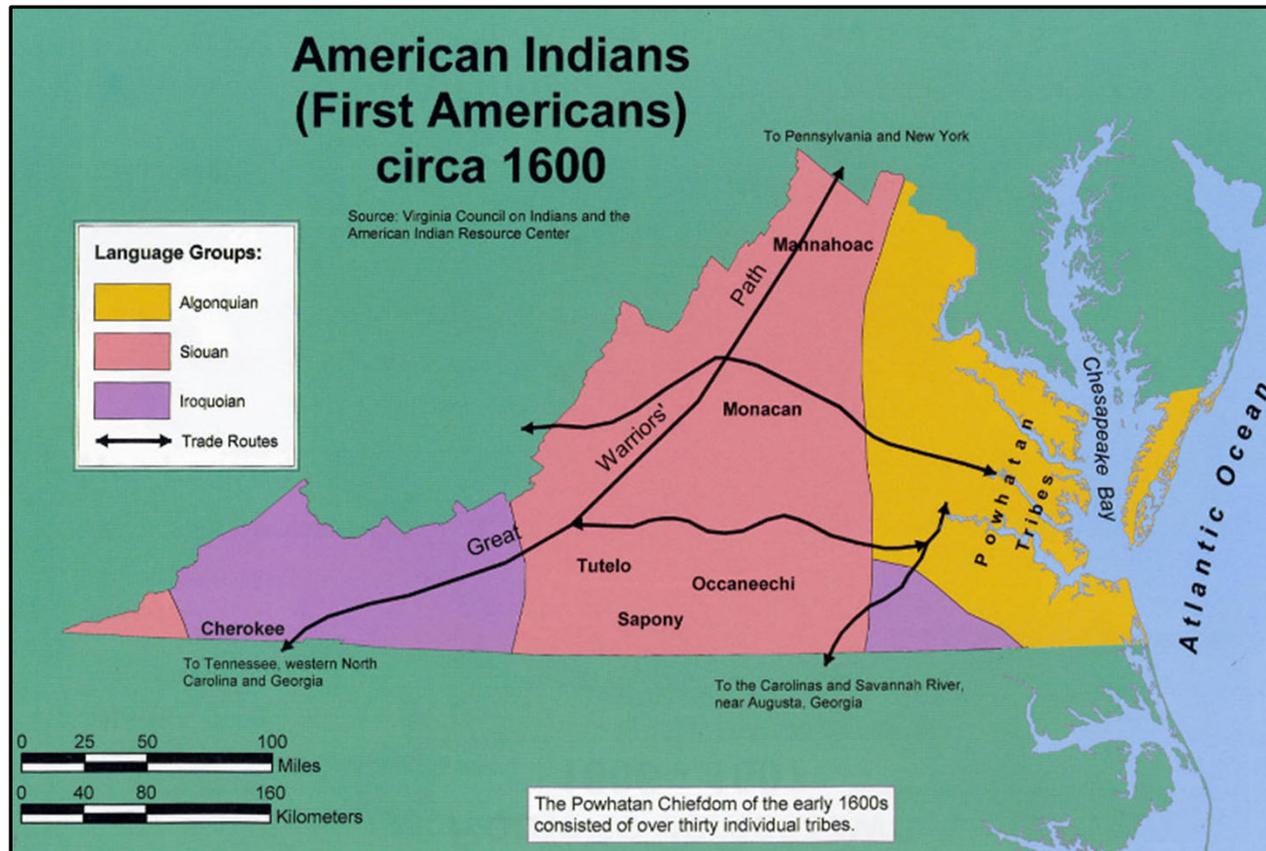
Charles Paullin, Atlas of Historical Geography 1932

Language and Virginia Tribes



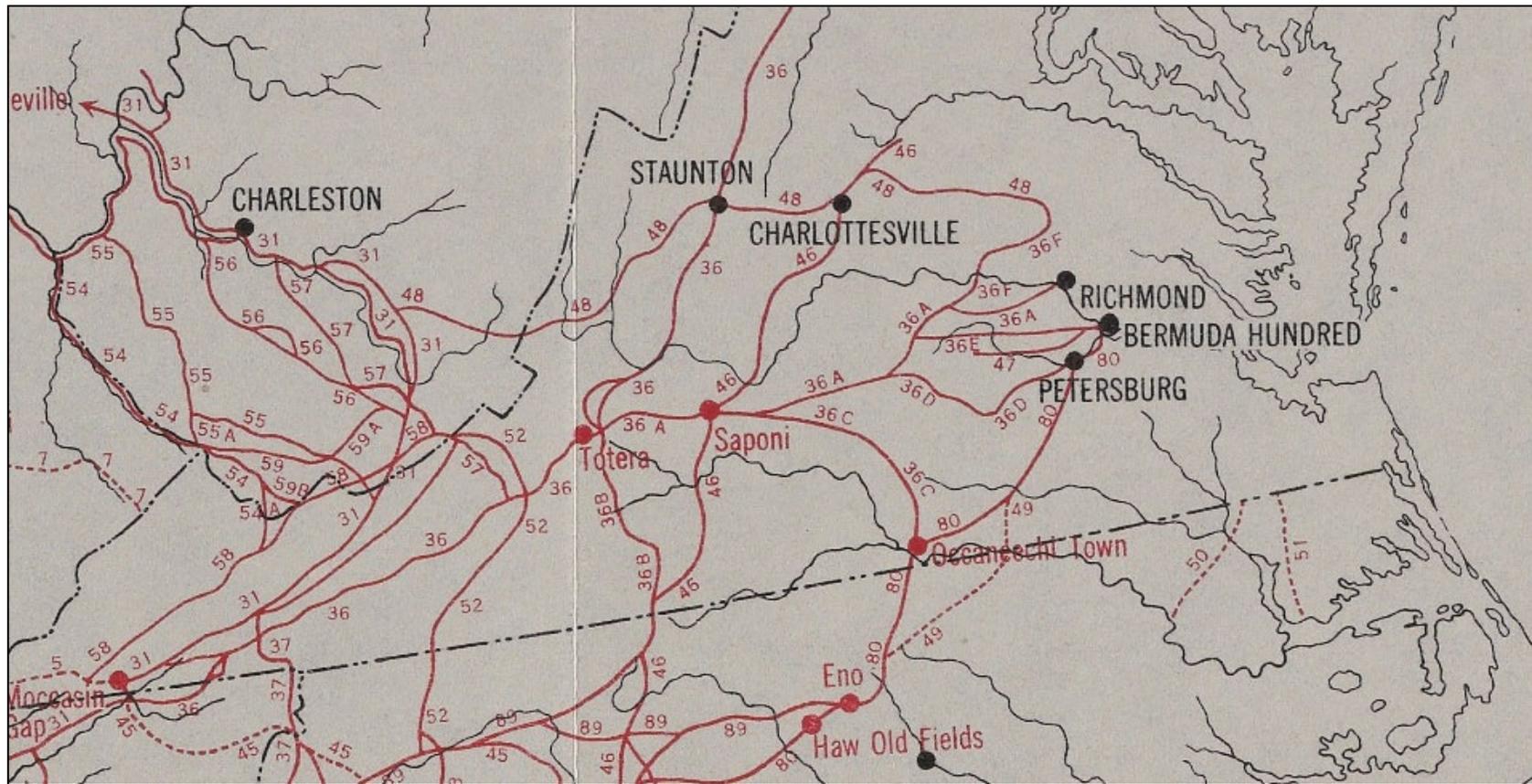
Source: Virginia Foundation for the Humanities, [Beyond Jamestown: Virginia Indians Today and Yesterday](http://www.virginiaplaces.org/nativeamerican/indlandclaims.html) (p.15) viewed at <http://www.virginiaplaces.org/nativeamerican/indlandclaims.html>

Settlement Patterns

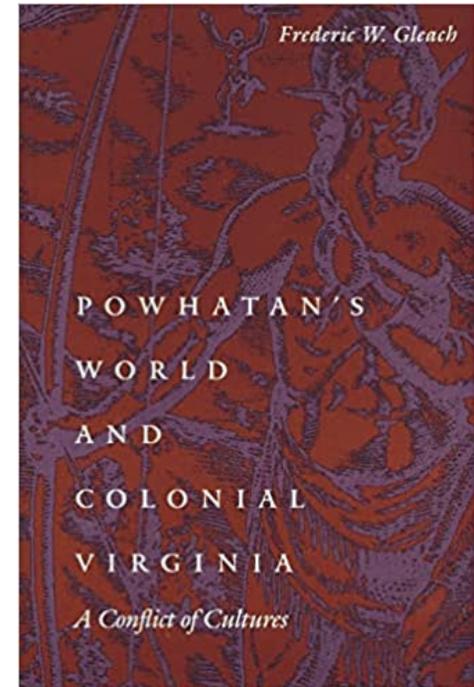
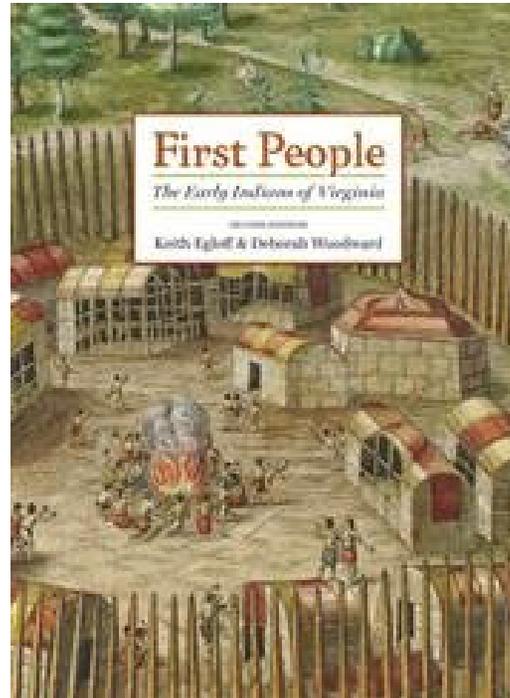
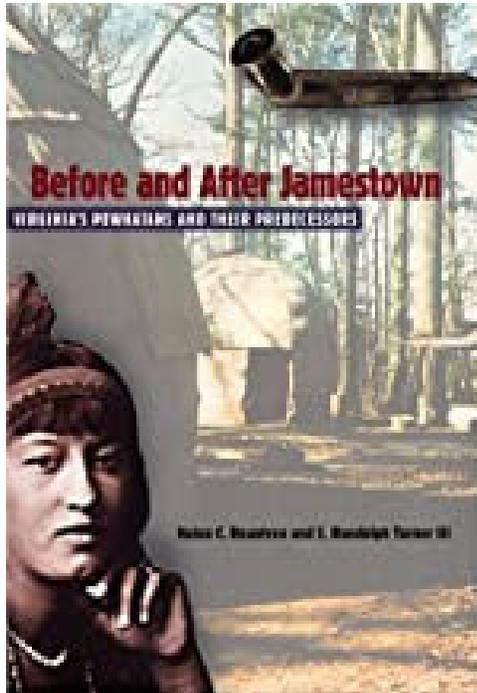


Virginia Geographic Alliance, An Atlas of Virginia (Map 26) <http://www.virginiaplaces.org/nativeamerican/indlandclaims.html>

Southeastern Settlements and Modern Cities



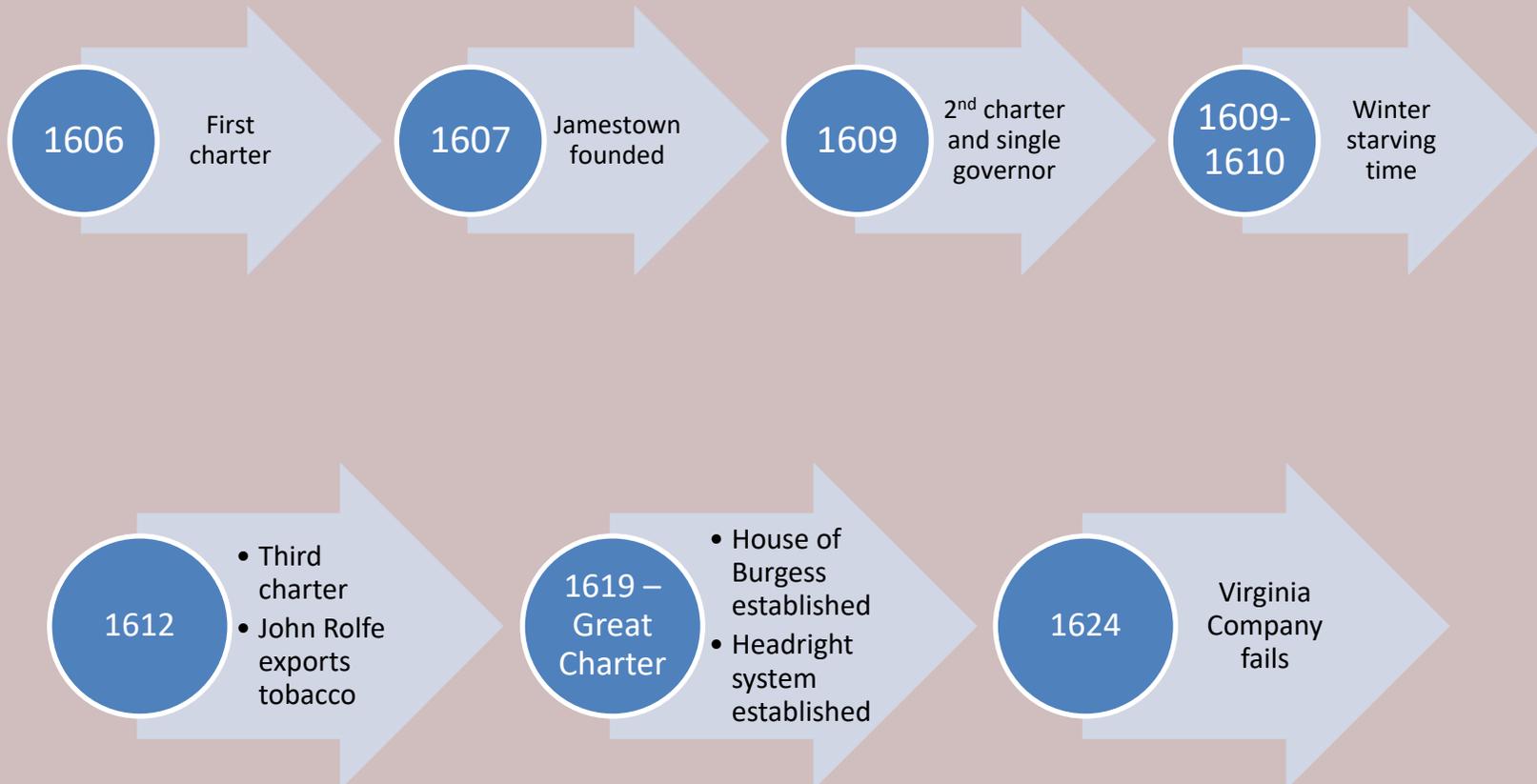
Source: Indian trails of the Southeast, by William E. Myer, Plate 15



Resources for Researching Indigenous Settlements

Virginia Company

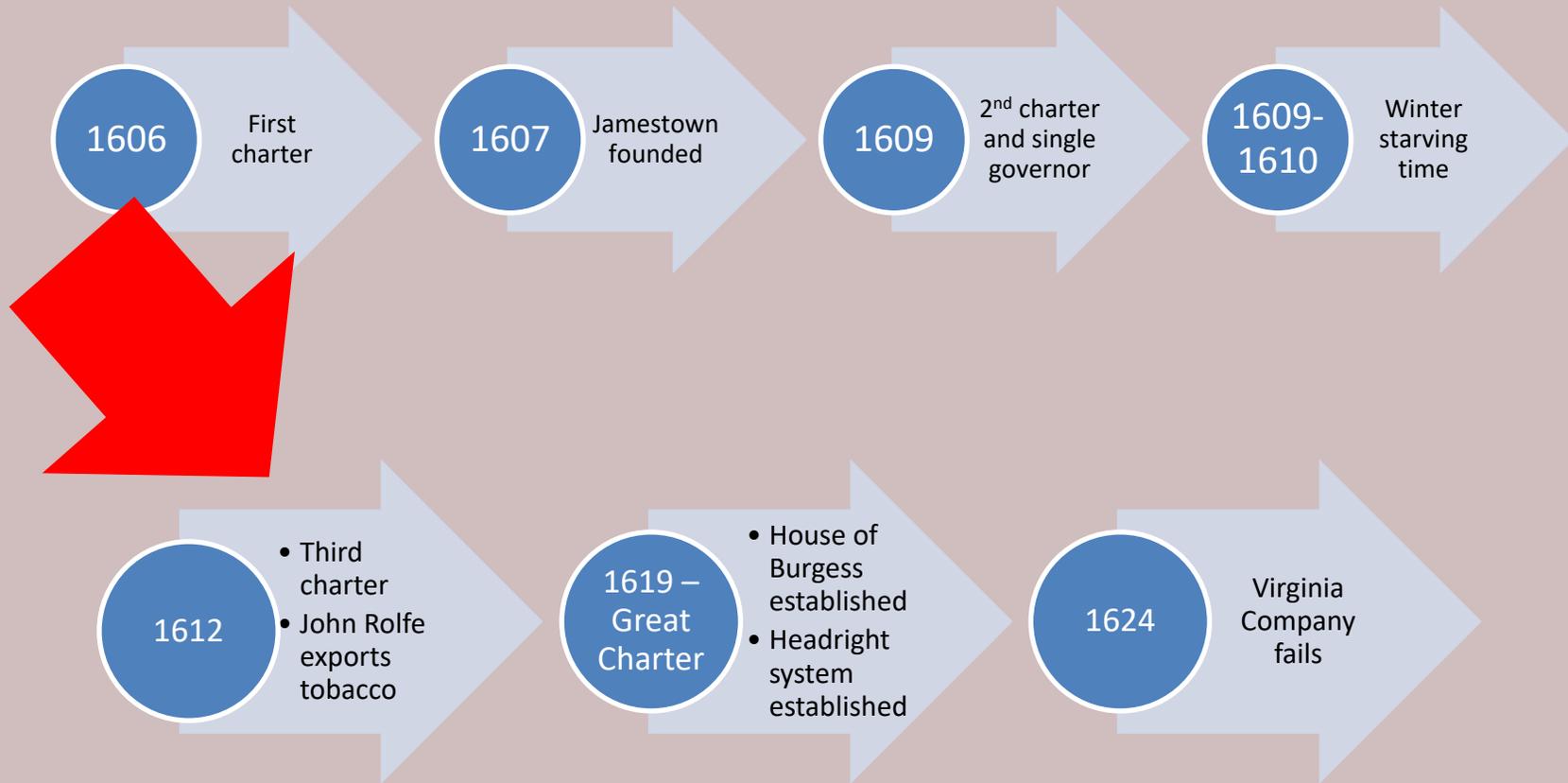
Virginia Company



Early Jamestown

- Goal: Identify profitable raw materials such as gold and silver in Virginia to repay the investors back in England.
- Set up as a profit-oriented trading station
 - Site selected for defensive reasons
 - Lacked plans to grow own food
 - Did not develop wells
 - Gentlemen leaders, artisans, craftsmen, and a few laborers
 - Original settlers unaccustomed to manual labor
 - Experimented with producing a variety of goods

Virginia Company



John Rolfe's Tobacco

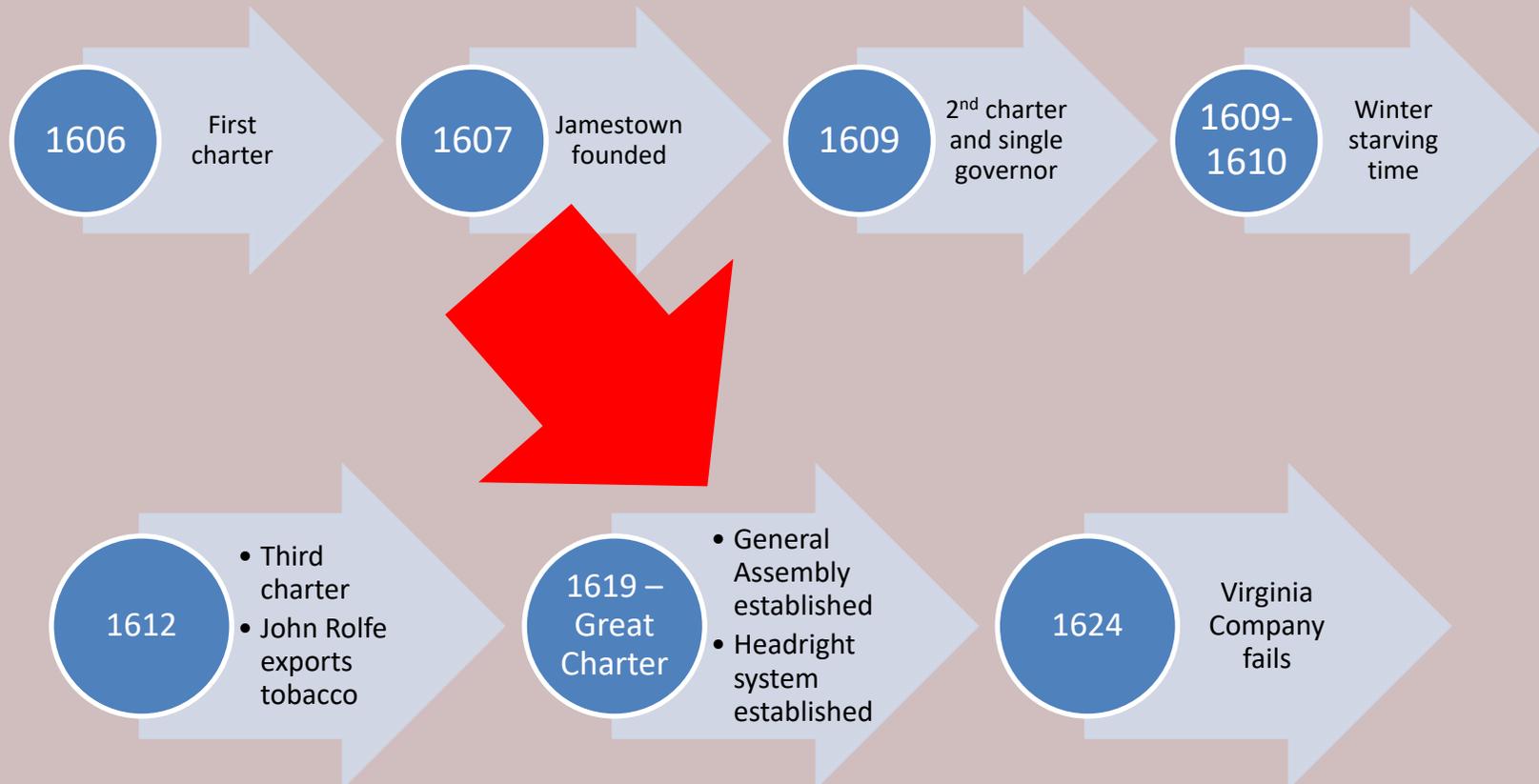
- Planted West Indian seeds to grow a milder tobacco - *Nicotiana tabacum*
- 1612 first trial export to England
- 20,000 pounds by 1617
- 40,000 pounds by 1618



Tobacco and Need for Workers

- Tobacco
 - Labor intensive crop
 - Inspect for insects
 - Pinch back top of plant to prevent flowering
 - Sorting/drying leaves an art
 - Depletes soil of nutrients quickly
- Workers
 - Indentured servants provided labor for 4 – 7 years and then free
 - Some contracts specified land; most did not
 - First Africans landed in 1619 on a Dutch ship

Virginia Company



Charter of 1619

- House of Burgesses
 - Introduce English common law
 - Elected burgesses
- Headright system
 - Supply new colonists
 - Improve access to land.



General Assembly

- Established 30 July 1619 by Governor George Yeardley at Jamestown
 - Two burgesses (representatives from each of the colony's eleven settlements)
 - Established procedures based on parliamentary law
 - Named Church of England as established church
 - Issued regulations and laws on land, tobacco, trade with indigenous populations, settled disputes
- Met at Jamestown until 1700 when meetings moved to Williamsburg
- 1643 – split by Gov Berkeley into a House of Burgesses (elected) and Governor's Council (appointed)

Headright System

John Padey, Anth. Moore, John Peace, Tho. Hadway, Joseph Lucas, Rich. Keyes, Mary Guny, Tho. Reekes, Wm. Mills, Tho. Shore. Renewed 18 Mar. 1662.

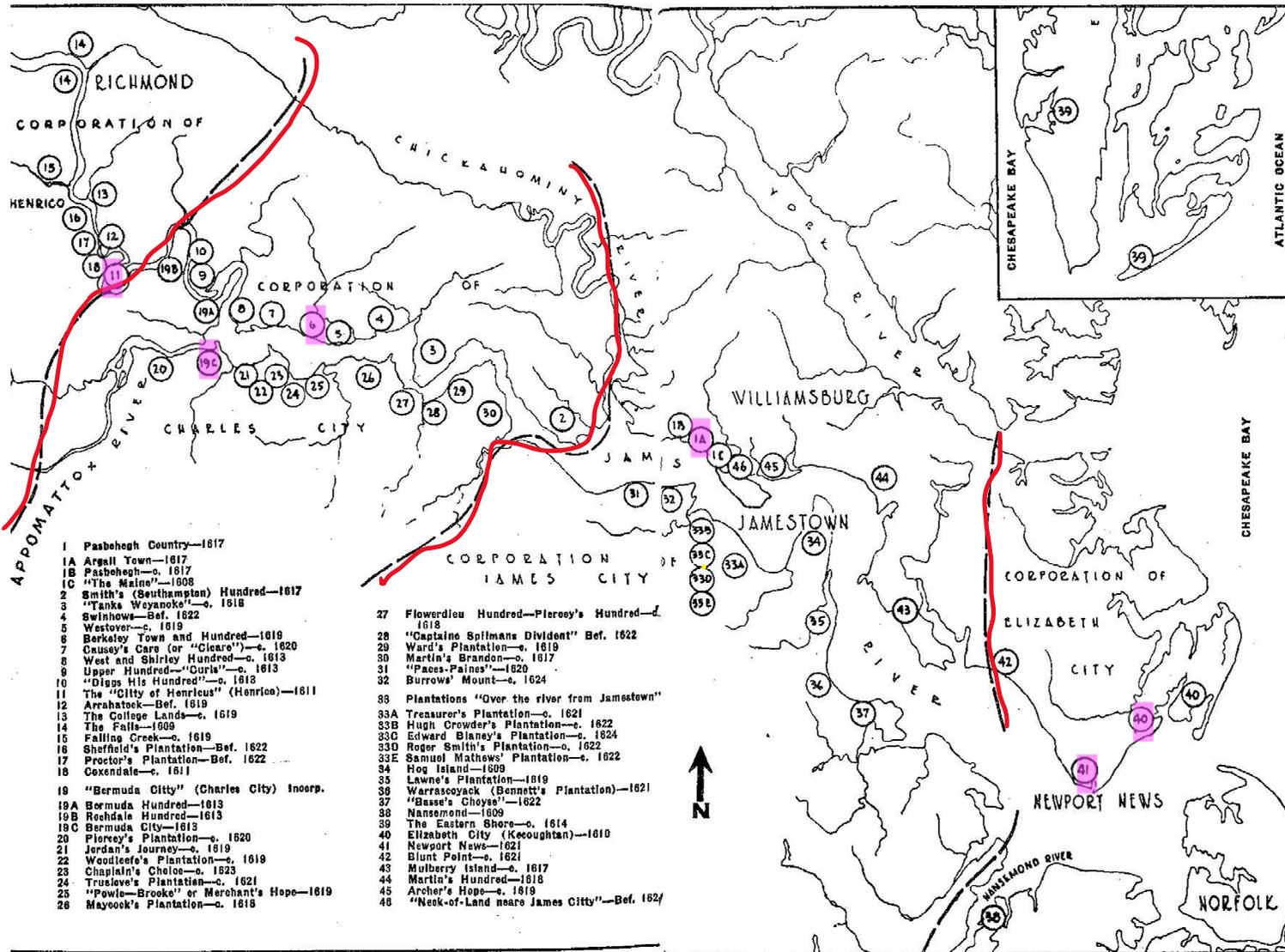
WM. HAY, gent., 250 acs. Yorke Co., 1 Sept. 1658, p. 186, (275). Wly. on land of John Hayward & the southern bounds running by a slash of water which parts the Co. of Yorke & the Co. of Denby. Trans. of 5 pers: Thomas Stephens, Wm. Roberts, Edward Braybrooke, Charles Perry, Richard Willson. Renewed 29 Oct. 1662.

- Initiated by 1619 Charter
- Grant of land, usually 50 acres
 - For transport of self or another person to Virginia
- Purpose of system
 - Provide a steady supply of workers to the colony

Nugent, Cavaliers and Pioneers, accessed at Ancestry.com

Turning Point - 1622

- March 22, 1622 – Powhatan Confederacy attacks colonists
- Intended to stop the expansion of settlers into native territory
- One quarter of Virginia colony killed (347)
 - Names recorded
- Watershed moment and hastened the failure of the Virginia Company in 1624



Towns, Plantations, Settlements and Communities in Virginia: 1607-1624

(The sites of Richmond, Williamsburg and Norfolk are shown but the cities did not exist at the time.)

Towns, Plantations, Settlements 1607-1624

Charles E. Hatch, Jr. *The First Seventeen Years Virginia, 1607-1624*
(Charlottesville, University Press of Virginia, 1957), p. 3

1634

Local Government Emerges

Shire Name	County Name
Accomac	Northampton & Accomack
Charles City	Charles City
Charles River	York
Elizabeth City	Extinct – consolidated with City of Hampton
Henrico	Henrico
James City	James City
Warwick River	Extinct – consolidated with City of Newport News
Warrosquyoake Shire	Isle of Wight

Virginia Counties by 1700

County	Est
Accomack	1633
Charles City	1634
Elizabeth City	1634
Henrico	1634
Isle of Wight	1634
James City	1634
Northampton	1634
Nansemond	1637
Upper Norfolk	1637
York	1643
Lower Norfolk	1647

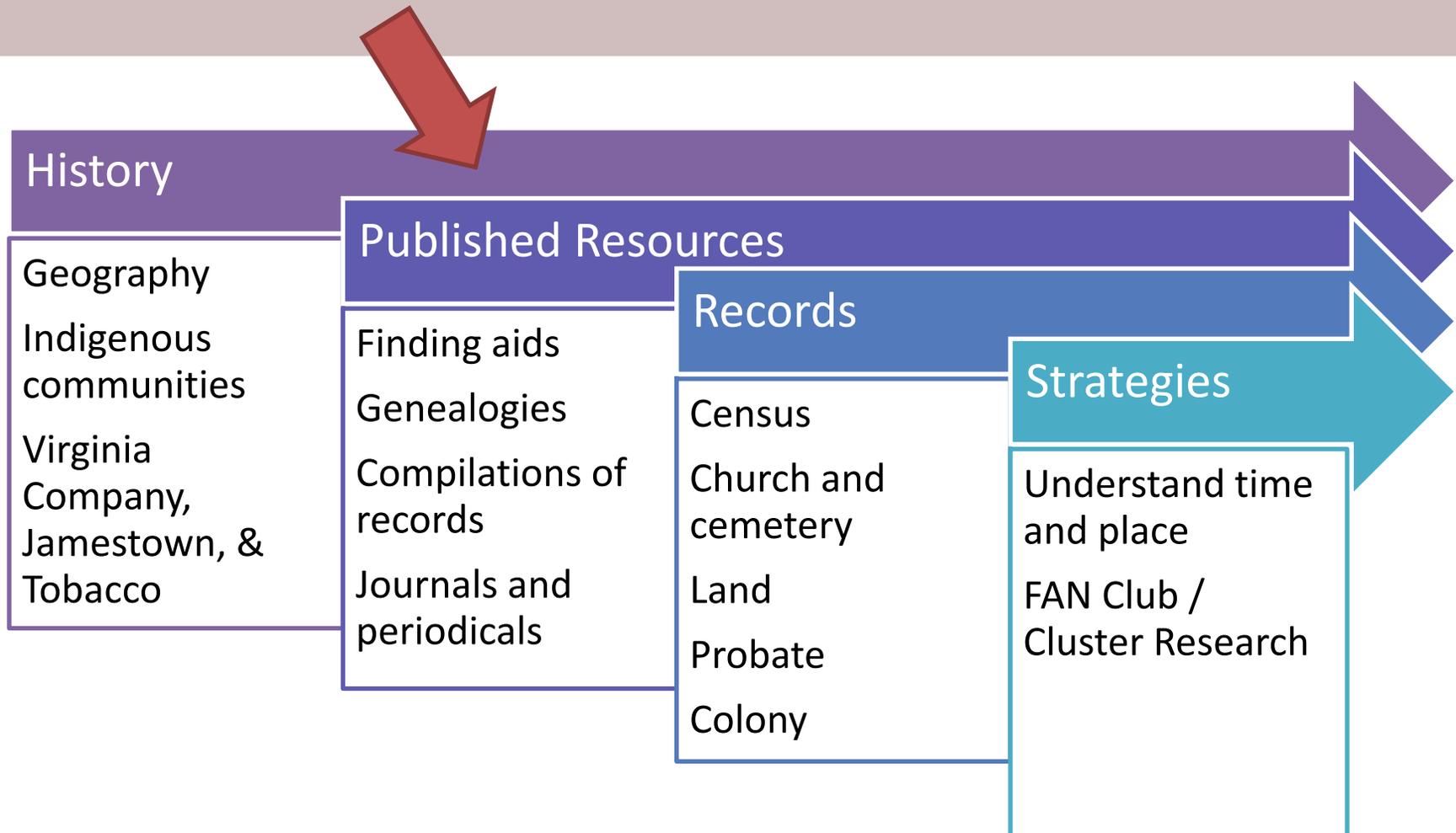
County	Est
Northumberland	1648
Gloucester	1651
Lancaster	1651
Surrey	1652
Westmoreland	1653
New Kent	1654
Stafford	1664
Middlesex	1674
King and Queen	1691
Princess Anne	1691
Essex	1692
Richmond	1692

Colonial Virginia Government

- General Assembly (1619) split in 1634
 - House of Burgesses
 - Governor's Council
 - Citizens elected member to House of Burgesses
- Shires → Counties (1634)
 - County courts
 - Kept land, tax, and probate records
- Anglican parishes
 - Responsible for registering births, marriage and deaths
 - Levied taxes
 - Responsible for poor, roads and other civil functions

QUESTIONS?

Overview



Finding Aids

Virginia Historical Index ***(aka – Swem Index)***

- Indexed pre-1930 articles in five publications and two sets of governmental records
- V=*Virginia Magazine of History and Biography*
- W=*William and Mary Quarterly*
- T=*Tyler's Quarterly Historical and Genealogical Magazine*
- R=Virginia's Historical Register and Literary Advertiser
- N=Lower Norfolk County Virginia Antiquary
- H=Hening's Statutes at Large
- C=Calendar of Virginia State papers

Virginia Historical Index

In Two Volumes

By E. G. SWEM, *Librarian of the College of William and Mary*

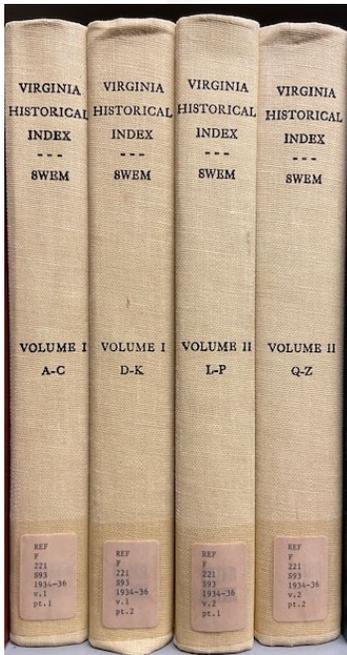
Volume Two
L-Z

Method of Citation

EACH OF THE EIGHT WORKS INDEXED has an abbreviation of a single letter. Thus, the Virginia Magazine of History is always referred to as V. The citation of 23V181 means, therefore, twenty-third volume of Virginia Magazine of History, page one hundred and eighty-one. 4W(1)32 means the fourth volume of the William and Mary Quarterly, first series, page thirty-two. 6R29 means the sixth volume of the Virginia Historical Register, page twenty-nine.

Abbreviations

- C=Calendar of Virginia State Papers
- H=Hening's Statutes of Virginia
- N=Lower Norfolk County Virginia Antiquary
- R=Virginia Historical Register
- T=Tyler's Historical and Genealogical Quarterly
- V=Virginia Magazine of History and Biography
- W(1)=William and Mary College Quarterly Historical Magazine, first series
- W(2)=William and Mary College Quarterly Historical Magazine, second series



GLOUCESTER, MASS.
PETER SMITH
1965

**1T52-57 =
Volume 1
Tyler's Quarterly
Pages 52-57**

Martiall's path, 13W(1)121
 Martian, *See* Martiau
 Martiau, Elizabeth, 1T57, 247; 1V426;
 4V204, 206; 26V203; 32V289;
 1W(1)82, 97; 2W(1)3; 3W(1)40;
 9W(1)261; 10W(1)171; 14W(1)119,
 123; 22W(1)75; 3W(2)196; 8W(2)124;
 9W(2)312-314; 10W(2)25
 Isabel Beech, 21V283; 26V203; 14W(1)123
 Jane, 1T247; 21V283; 26V202, 203;
 28V103; 14W(1)123
 Mary, 1V426; 4V206; 26V203; 32V255;
 1W(1)82, 95; 2W(1)3; 14W(1)123;
 24W(1)200; 3W(2)196; 8W(2)124
 Nicholas (of Yorktown region) 1H129,
 154, 179;
 1T52-57, 233, 236, 238, 241, 242, 247;
 1V425; 2V420; 4V204, 206; 17V107,
 109; 18V346; 19V144; 21V283;
 26V202, 203; 28V103, 319, 320;
 30V358; 32V255, 289;
 1W(1)82, 95, 97; 2W(1)3, 98;
 3W(1)40; 5W(1)221; 6W(1)134;
 10W(1)171; 14W(1)100, 119, 123;
 16W(1)2; 22W(1)74, 75, 76, 77, 84,
 85, 242, 244; 23W(1)11, 14, 16, 205,
 208, 210, 276; 24W(1)46, 200;
 27W(1)138;
 3W(2)187, 196; 4W(2)27; 7W(2)127,
 128; 8W(2)124; 9W(2)312, 313
 arrest of, 8V299
 burgess, 1632, 7V49, 50; 1W(2)79, 93
 deposition of, 19V144, 145, 233;
 1W(1)96
 Governor Harvey mentions, 1V425, 427
 in Kemp's report, 1635, 8V303
 land grant to, 1639, 14V191
 land of, 2V420
 naturalization of, 16V109
 signature, facsimile of, 1T233
 signed petition to the King, 1624, 7V46
 sketch of, 1T52-57
 tobacco viewer, 1639, 5V123
 Sarah, 1T247; 1V426; 4V206; 26V203;
 1W(1)82; 2W(1)98; 14W(1)123;
 3W(2)196
 family, 1T52-57; 4V204; 5W(1)93;
 10W(1)211; 22W(1)74; 8W(2)203

Using the index

Coldham's Lists of Immigrants

- Extensive documentation of (mostly poor) immigrants to Virginia
- *The Complete Book of Emigrants, 1607-1660*
- *The Complete Book of Emigrants, 1661-1699*
- *The Bristol Registers of Servants Sent to Foreign Plantations, 1654-1686*
- *The Complete Book of Emigrants in Bondage, 1614-1775*

THE COMPLETE BOOK OF EMIGRANTS

1607-1660

*A Comprehensive Listing Compiled from English Public Records
Those Who Took Ship to the Americas for Political, Religious,
and Economic Reasons; of Those Who Were Deported
for Vagrancy, Roguery, or Non-Conformity;
and of Those Who Were Sold to Labour
in the New Colonies*



Peter Wilson Coldham

GENEALOGICAL PUBLISHING CO., INC
Baltimore 1988

3 August. Captain Thomas Chadocke of the Somers Islands deposes that six years ago John Snell left there for Virginia where he is supposed to have died. A letter written by Richard Leake of the Somers Islands at the direction of Frances Jones, Snell's mother, has confirmed the death. *(LMC)*.

9 August. Commission to Sir William Berkeley to be Governor of Virginia. The Church of England religion will be observed and every church will provide for its own minister. All persons above the age of 16 are to bear arms. Wills are to be probated. Everyone will build a house in proportion to his land and a Government House is to be built in a more convenient place than James Town. Fifty acres of land are to be granted to every person transported to Virginia since midsummer 1625. *(CSPC)*.

LMC. Lord Mayor's Court Depositions, by Peter Wilson Coldham. Washington: National Genealogical Society, 1980 (Special Publication No. 44).

CSPC. Calendars of State Papers, American and Colonial Series, 1574-1660, ed. W. Noel Sainsbury. Longman & Green, 1860.

Using Coldham's books

Genealogies

Why use published genealogies?

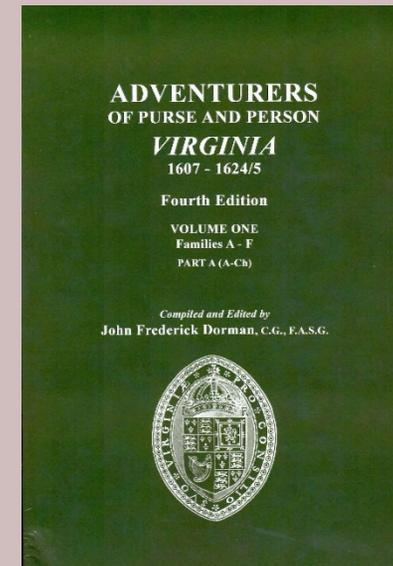
- Very helpful for 17th century research
- May detail genealogy of your ancestors or affiliated families
- May help link together and differentiate families
- Usually provide biographical details
- ★ Citations lead to other resources and record sets

Key Virginia Compiled Genealogies

- Dorman's *Adventurers of Purse and Person*
- Dorman's *Genealogies of Virginia Families*
- *William and Mary College Quarterly Historical Magazine*
- *Tyler's Quarterly Historical and Genealogical Magazine*
- *Virginia Immigrants and Adventurers 1607-1635*

Adventurers of Purse and Person

- Sponsored by the Order of First Families of Virginia, 1607-1620; Commemorating 400th anniversary of Jamestown
 - Adventurers of *purse* who visited 1607-1624/5 and left descendants or whose grandchildren came
 - Adventurers of *person* (immigrants to Virginia) 1607-1624/5 who left descendants



ADVENTURERS OF PURSE AND PERSON

WILLIAM COLE HIS MUSTER

WILLIAM COLE aged 26 in the *Neptune* 1618
 FRANCIS COLE aged 27 in the *Susan* 1616
 ROGER FARBRASE aged 26 in the *Elizabeth* 1621
 PROVISION: CORNE, 10 barrels; Fish, 50; Houses, 1. ARMES: Snaphance pistols, 1; Swords, 1; Armor, 1.

[42]

Elizabeth
Cittie

MILES PRICKETT AND FRANCIS MITCHELL
THEIR MUSTERS

MILES PRICKETT aged 36 in the *Starr*: 1610
 FRANCIS MITCHELL aged 28 in the *Neptune* 1618

EXPLANATORY NOTES

ANCIENT PLANTER. A colonist in Virginia by 1616, entitled to 100 acres of land provided he paid his own passage and had dwelt in the Colony for three years when application for land was made. In accordance with a predetermined policy of the Virginia Company, no individual assignments of land were made during the first seven years of the Colony's existence. The policy of granting patents for acreage to settlers was inaugurated during the latter part of the regime of Sir Thomas Dale, Governor, 1611-1616.

CALENDAR. The Julian calendar, according to which 25 March was reckoned as the first day of the New Year, was in use together with the Gregorian calendar until 1752 when it was abandoned and the 11 days difference between the two calendars was dropped out of the year. The occurrence of an event between 1 January, the first day of the New Year according to the Gregorian calendar and 25 March, the New Year's day of the Julian calendar, is indicated by a diagonal: thus 16 February 1624/5, which shows that the event took place on 16 February 1624 by the Julian but 1625 by the Gregorian calendar.

COLLEGE LAND. Under provisions of the Great Charter for Virginia, 1618, 10,000 acres of land were set aside in Henrico and the adjoining area Coxendale "for the endowing of a university and college with convenient possessions." Plans then were put under way to establish this "university" for the education of the Indians. The massacre of 1622, which took a heavy toll of life in Henrico, put to an end all plans for a college in that area.

COMPANY LAND. By act of the Council for Virginia, 18 November 1618, each of the four Corporations, Charles City, Henrico, James City, and Kecoughtan (Elizabeth City) was assigned 3,000 acres of land. Those colonists transported to Virginia at the Company's expense were seated on the Company lands and the Company was entitled to one-half of the profits of their labors during seven-year terms. The other half of the profits was to be used to defray costs of government. (*R. Va. Co.* III, p. 101)

CORPORATIONS. In a first attempt to establish governmental divisions in Virginia, seemingly, prior to 17 June 1617 (Alexander Brown, *First Republic*, p. 254) four

*1. WILLIAM¹ COLE, eldest son of Humphrie Cole, "Clarke" of Tillingham, Essex, England, and his wife Hester,¹ came to Virginia in the *Neptune* in 1618 and at the time of the muster, 1624/5, was living at Elizabeth City, aged 26, with his wife Francis [Frances], aged 27, who came in the *Susan*, 1616, and Roger Farbrase, aged 26, who came in the *Elizabeth*, 1621. Their neighbor was Alexander Mountney who had patented 100 acres in the Corporation of Elizabeth City, 20 Sept. 1624, lying "east upon William Cole."² His own grant of 50 acres at Kecoughtan [Elizabeth City] is of record, 1625.³

William¹ Cole represented Nutmeg Quarter in the House of Burgesses, 1629.⁴ This settlement, bordering the James River in that part of Elizabeth City which became Warwick River County, 1634, was a few miles southeast of "Bolthrope," purchased by William² Cole, 1671, and the seat of the Cole family Cole had died by 15 Sept. 1664, for on comack County, formerly granted "to to escheat," was assigned to Richard at Col. Miles Cary, Escheator General,

Charles City County, from his brother William⁵, Oct. 1769;²⁶ 20. Mary⁵, married 173. *Richard Cary* (see BALEY SOCKE).

11. MARTHA⁴ COLE (William³, William², William¹) married (1) 26. *Thomas⁴ West* (see WEST), who died 1743, and (2) Ferdinando Leigh, justice of King William County, who died 1779 near Petersburg in his 64th year,²⁷ left will 24 May 1779-May 1784.²⁸

Issue: (by 1) see WEST; (by 2) [LEIGH]²⁹ 21. WILLIAM⁵; 22. Mary⁵, married 97. *William⁵ Claiborne* (see CLAIBORNE); 23. (perhaps) Roscow⁵, merchant, died 3 Oct. 1793 on board the brig *Nancy* on her passage from Martinique.³⁰

12. JANE⁴ COLE (William³, William², William¹) married (1) 33. *Nathaniel Claiborne* (see CLAIBORNE), (2), about 1758, Stephen Bingham of King William County, who left will dated 27 Aug. 1759,³¹ and (3) 27. *Francis⁴ West* (see WEST).

Issue: (by 1) see CLAIBORNE; (by 2) [BINGHAM] 24. Roscoe Cole⁵, cadet in Capt. Benjamin Temple's company of light dragoons, died 1777 at Gen. Washington's headquarters,³² aged under 21.³³

13. ROSCOW⁴ COLE (William³, William², William¹) was usher at the Grammar School at the College of William and Mary, 1744, 1747, was licensed for Virginia, 19 Jan. 1748/9, and received the King's Bounty, 21 Feb. 1748/9, arrived back in Virginia, May 1749, and served as minister of Warwick Parish, Warwick County, 1749-55.³⁴ He died about 1755. He married Rachel Robinson, daughter of Maj. Anthony and Diana (Tabb) Robinson, who was born 4 Oct. 1722, married (2), 29 Sept. 1759 in York County, Charles Turnbull of

²⁶ Charles City Co. Wills & Deeds 1766-74, p. 157.

²⁷ Washington, *op. cit.*, p. 263; *Virginia Gazette* (Dixon & Nicolson), 30 Oct. 1779. His son William stated he left a will which was in possession of Mr. William Caliborne and had never been proved or recorded.

²⁸ *Magazine of Virginia Genealogy*, XXXI, p. 344.

²⁹ T VIII, pp. 164-65.

³⁰ *Virginia Gazette and Weekly Advertiser*, Richmond, 8 Nov. 1793.

³¹ Legislative petition, King William Co., 8 Nov. 1787, Archives Division, Library of Virginia.

³² *Virginia Gazette* (Purdie), 6 June 1777.

³³ *Virginia Gazette and Weekly Advertiser*, Richmond, 23 Aug. 1787.

³⁴ Edward Lewis Goodwin, *The Colonial Church in Virginia* (London, 1927), p. 260.

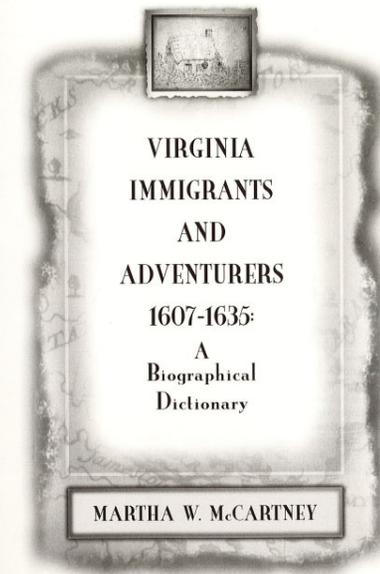
Example pages

Genealogies of Virginia Families

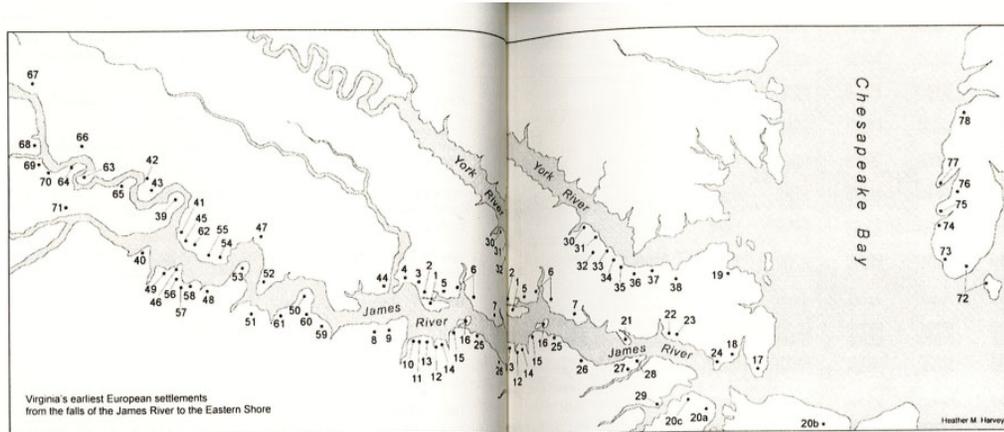
- 3 sets of article compilations from three different journals
 - *Virginia Magazine of History and Biography* (not online)
 - *William and Mary College Quarterly* (at [Ancestry.com](https://www.ancestry.com))
 - *Tyler's Quarterly Historical and Genealogical Magazine* (at [Ancestry.com](https://www.ancestry.com))
- Organized alphabetically
- Published 1981-1982 by Genealogical Publishing Co.

Virginia Immigrants and Adventurers 1607-1635

- Commemorates Jamestown 400th
- Annotated biographical sketches
- 5,500 original colonists
- Intro chapter “Where They Were”
= overview of settlement
and plantations



Genealogical Publishing Company



- | | | | |
|---|--|--|--|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Jamestown Island 2. Glasshouse 3. Governor's Land (The Maine and Pasbehay) 4. Company Land in James City 5. Neck O'Land 6. Archer's Hope 7. Martin's Hundred 8. Burrows Hill (Burrows Mount, Smith's Mount) 9. Paces Paines 10. Captain Roger Smith's Plantation 11. Treasurer's Plantation 12. Hugh Crowder's Plantation 13. William Ewen's Plantation 14. Captain William Powell's Plantation 15. Captain Samuel Mathews' Plantation 16. Hog Island 17. Old Point Comfort, the Company Land, and the Common Land in Elizabeth City 18. Elizabeth City (west side of the Hampton River) 19. Elizabeth City (near the mouth of the York River) | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 20. Elizabeth City (lower side of the James River):
20 a. Elizabeth River
20 c. Nansemond River area 21. Mulberry Island 22. Blunt Point and Stanley Hundred 23. Mathews Manor (Denbigh) 24. Newportes News (Marie's Mount) 25. Captain Christopher Lawne's Plantation 26. Bennett's Welcome (Warresqueak) 27. Basses Choice 28. Giles Jones's Plantation at Day's Point 29. Nansemond 30. Kings Creek Plantation 31. Ringfield 32. The Indian Field Plantation 33. Francis Morgan's Plantation 34. William Prior's Plantation 35. Richard Townsend's Plantation 36. Martias's Plantation 37. York Plantation 38. Wormeley Creek | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 39. Bermuda Hundred (Charles Hundred, the Nether Hundred, Neck of Land in Charles City) 40. Bermuda City (Charles City) 41. West and Shirley Hundred and West and Shirley Hundred Island 42. Upper Hundred (Curles) 43. Digges Hundred 44. Smith's or Smyth's (Southampton) Hundred 45. Causey's Care (Cleare) 46. Jordan's Journey (Beggars Bush) 47. Swinehow's Plantation 48. Maycock's (Macock's) Plantation 49. Captain John Woodlief's Plantation 50. Powle-Brooke or Merchants Hope 51. Captain Henry Spellman's Dividend 52. Weyanoke (Tanks or Tax Weyanoke) 53. Flowerdew (Peirseys') Hundred 54. Westover 55. Berkeley Hundred 56. Chaplin's Choice 57. William Bikar's Plantation 58. Truelove's Plantation | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 59. Captain John Martin's Plantation (Martin's Brandon) 60. Captain John Bargrave's Plantation 61. Captain John Ward's Plantation 62. Company Land in Charles City 63. City of Henrico (Henricus Island) 64. Coxendale 65. Rochdale (Roxdale) Hundred, Rock Hall 66. College Land and Arrohattock (Sir Thomas Smith's Hundred) 67. The Falls (West Fort, Nonsuch) 68. Falling Creek 69. Thomas Sheffield's Plantation 70. John and Alice Proctor's Plantation 71. Peirseys's Plantation (Peirseys's Tolle) 72. Smith's Island, Golden Quarter (Dale's Gift) 73. Old Plantation Creek 74. Captain William Eppes's Plantation 75. Secretary's Plantation 76. Company Land 77. Savages Neck 78. Sir George Yeardley's Plantation |
|---|--|--|--|

Example pages

Warresqueak (26), George Cole was killed (VCR 3:571).

JOHN COLE

John Cole set sail for Virginia in September 1619 on the *Margaret* of Bristol. He accompanied Captain John Woodlief and went to the colony at the expense of the Society of Berkeley Hundred's investors. Cole was headed for Berkeley Hundred (55), where he was supposed to serve for seven years in exchange for 40 acres. His rate of pay was to be set annually and his wife (who remained behind in England) was supposed to receive support from Berkeley Hundred's investors. John Cole seems to have died within a short time of his arrival in Virginia (VCR 3:187, 197, 199, 213-215; CBE 13-14).

SOLOMON COLE

On August 20, 1630, Solomon Cole witnessed Edward Waters' will, which was made in Elizabeth City (18) (SH 13).

WILLIAM COLE

William Cole went to Virginia in September 1619 on the *Margaret* of Bristol with Captain John Woodlief. He went at the expense of the Society of Berkeley Hundred's investors and was headed for Berkeley Hundred (55), where he was supposed to serve for seven years in exchange for 30 acres. William seems to have died within a short time of his arrival (VCR 3:198, 213; CBE 14).

WILLIAM COLE (COALE)

William Cole (Coale) came to Virginia in 1618 on the *Neptune* and on February 16, 1624, was living in Elizabeth City (18). On September 20, 1624, his land in Elizabeth City was in the hands of Captain Thomas Davis, who appears to have been a tenant. In early 1625, when a muster was taken of Elizabeth City's inhabitants, William was described as the head of a household that included 27-year-old Francis Cole and 26-year-old Roger Farbrase. They shared a dwelling and were relatively well supplied with stored food and defensive weaponry. In May 1625, when a list of patented land was sent back to England, William Cole was credited with 50 acres in Elizabeth City, land that had been planted (seated).

On October 16, 1629, William served as a burgess for the settlers in Nutmeg Quarter (24) (CBE 44, 63; PB 1 Pt. 1:37; VCR 4:558; HEN 1:127; DOR 1:52, 713).

[NO FIRST NAME] COLEMAN

Sergeant Coleman was ordered to arrest Elias LaGuard, one of merchant Richard Stephens' debtors, and bring him to court in Jamestown (1). Since Coleman failed to do so, on March 7, 1629, he was obliged to post a bond guaranteeing that he would comply (MCGC 193).

HENRY COLEMAN

Henry Coleman may have come to Virginia in 1622. On February 26, 1627, he testified that he had been aboard the *Furtherance* when Margaret Biard (Byard) died around August 3, 1622, while enroute to the colony. He said that Nathaniel Basse took custody of her belongings, which were inventoried accurately by William Newman. On January 3, 1633, Henry Coleman received Christopher Windmill's 60-acre leasehold in Elizabeth City (17), subletting it from Francis Hough, who had wed Windmill's widow. On May 30, 1634, Henry Coleman was identified as an Elizabeth City planter whose 60 acres abutted south on the Indian House Thicket. Later in the year, he was excommunicated from his local parish for wearing his hat in church and speaking scornfully, thereby raising the possibility that he was a religious dissenter. On June 6, 1635, he patented 150 acres in Elizabeth City on the basis of three headrights (MCGC 141, 481; PB 1 Pt. 1:147-148, 241).

[NO FIRST NAME] COLFER

Sometime prior to March 22, 1622, Mr. Colfer, an overseer of Lady Elizabeth Dale's Virginia property, loaned corn to Captain George Thorpe of Berkeley Hundred (55), a man who was killed in the Indian attack. On March 7, 1625, the General Court decided that Lady Dale's current overseer, Charles Harmer, would be compensated from Thorpe's estate. Lady Dale owned land on Jamestown Island (1), on the Eastern Shore (72), at Coxendale (64), and in Charles City near Shirley Hundred (41) (MCGC 48).

Record Compilations

Probate

- Peter Wilson Coldham
 - *English Estates of American Colonists: American Wills and Administrations in the Prerogative Court of Canterbury, 1610-1699* (Ancestry \$)
- Lothrop Withington
 - *Virginia Gleanings in England: Abstracts of 17th and 18th-Century English Wills and Administrations Relating to Virginia and Virginians*
 - *Virginia Magazine of History and Biography* (JSTOR)
- Torrence
 - *Virginia Wills and Administrations 1632-1800 – An index to probate* (FamilySearch)

Colonial Records Project

- Established by Library of Virginia to find records related to Virginia in Britain, France, and Ireland
- Correspondence between British officials and colonial officers, customs records, business records, claims of British merchants concerning Virginia stores, log books, ships' cargo lists
- See Library of Virginia - <https://lva-virginia.libguides.com/vcrp>

The screenshot shows the Library of Virginia website interface. At the top left is the logo for the 200th anniversary (1823-2023). Navigation links include SEARCH, BROWSE, CATALOG USER GUIDE, and DIGITAL COLLECTIONS DISCOVERY. A search bar contains the text 'Rice' and has a dropdown menu set to 'Everything'. A yellow banner below the search bar says 'Sign in to request items' with a 'Sign in' button and a 'DISMISS' button. On the left side, there is a 'Refine your results' section with a 'Sort by' dropdown set to 'Relevance'. Under 'New Records', there are three options: 'New From Last 3 Months', 'New From Last Month', and 'New From Last Week'. A red arrow points to the 'Collections' section, which includes 'Books and Journals (1,297)' and 'Digital Collections (1,059)'. The main results area shows two 'INDEX ENTRY' results for 'Rice' from the 'Death Records Indexing Project.; Virginia Genealogical Society'. The first result is for the year 1877 and the second is for 1853. Each result includes a document icon, a link icon, an email icon, a pin icon, and a more options icon.

Results page

The screenshot shows a search results interface with a left sidebar and a main results area. The sidebar contains a list of filters, with 'Virginia Colonial Records Project (33)' selected. A red arrow points to this selection. Below the sidebar, a 'Publication Date' filter is visible, with 'From 1000' and 'to 1700' entered, and a red arrow pointing to the 'Refine' button. At the bottom of the sidebar, a green 'APPLY FILTERS' button is highlighted with a red arrow. The main results area shows a list of search results, including 'INDEX ENTRY Rice.' and 'ARCHIVAL MATERIAL Rice,' with various icons for linking, emailing, and pinning.

0 selected PAGE 1 3,210 Results

Revolutionary War Bounty Warrants (51)

Confederate Pension Rolls (49)

War of 1812 Pension & Muster Rolls Index

Wills and Administrations Index

Peter ... Public Library Newspaper Index (38)

Virginia Colonial Records Project (33)

S. Bassett French Biographical Sketches (30)

Archival Materials (786)

Collections (160)

Images (125)

Show More

Publication Date

From 1000 to 1700 Refine

CLEAR APPLY FILTERS

INDEX ENTRY Rice. Death Records Indexing Project.; Virginia Genealogical Society 1853

INDEX ENTRY Rice. Death Records Indexing Project.; Virginia Genealogical Society 1857

ARCHIVAL MATERIAL Rice. Virginia. Governor's Office: Library of Virginia. Archives.

INDEX ENTRY Rice. Virginia. Governor's Office; Library of Virginia. Archives. Available Online

INDEX ENTRY Rice. Library of Virginia

INDEX ENTRY Rice. Death Records Indexing Project.; Virginia Genealogical Society 1865

Filtering results

Rice Family of Henrico County

Active filters

Virginia Colonial Records Pro... X

Remember all filters

Reset filters

Refine your results

Sort by Relevance ▾

Collections ^

Digital Collections (33) [X]

Subject ^

- Abram (ship) 1634, SR 03490a, p. 7 (1) [X]
- Acton, Richard 1761, SR 08766, p. 2 (1) [X]
- Adair, A. 1762, SR 00578, p. 2 (1) [X]

High Court of Admiralty. Instance and Prize Courts: Examinations
Public Record Office Class H.C.A. 13/66.; Virginia Colonial Records Project
July 1652 - February 1652/53
[Available Online >](#)

29 ARCHIVAL MATERIAL
Port Book. Port of London. Surveyor General of Tunnage and Poundage. Oversea imports by denizens.
Public Record Office Class E 190/38/5.; Virginia Colonial Records Project
1633-1634
[Available Online >](#)

30 ARCHIVAL MATERIAL
Quarter Sessions Records. Plantation Indentures 1682/83-1684 Box I. Original numbers 3-600. Indentures for service in Virginia.
[Greater London Record Office, Middlesex Section] Middlesex County Record Office Class P.I.1-342.; Virginia Colonial Records Project
1683-1684
[Available Online >](#)

Middlesex England Record

02003

SURVEY REPORT No. 2151

page 4

375/P.I.143 James Elliott, 22, of Middlesex, to Christopher Deane.
4 years. Barnaby. 22 October 1683. Worn.

376/P.I.144 William Moore, 18, to James Emmerson. 4 years. 22 October
1683. Worn.

377/P.I.145 Robert Steele, 21, of Middlesex, tailor, to Francis Lee.
4 years. Duke of York. 23 October 1683.

378/P.I.146 Joseph Priestley, 24, of Middlesex, accountant, to William
Haveland. 4 years. Duke of York. 25 October 1683.

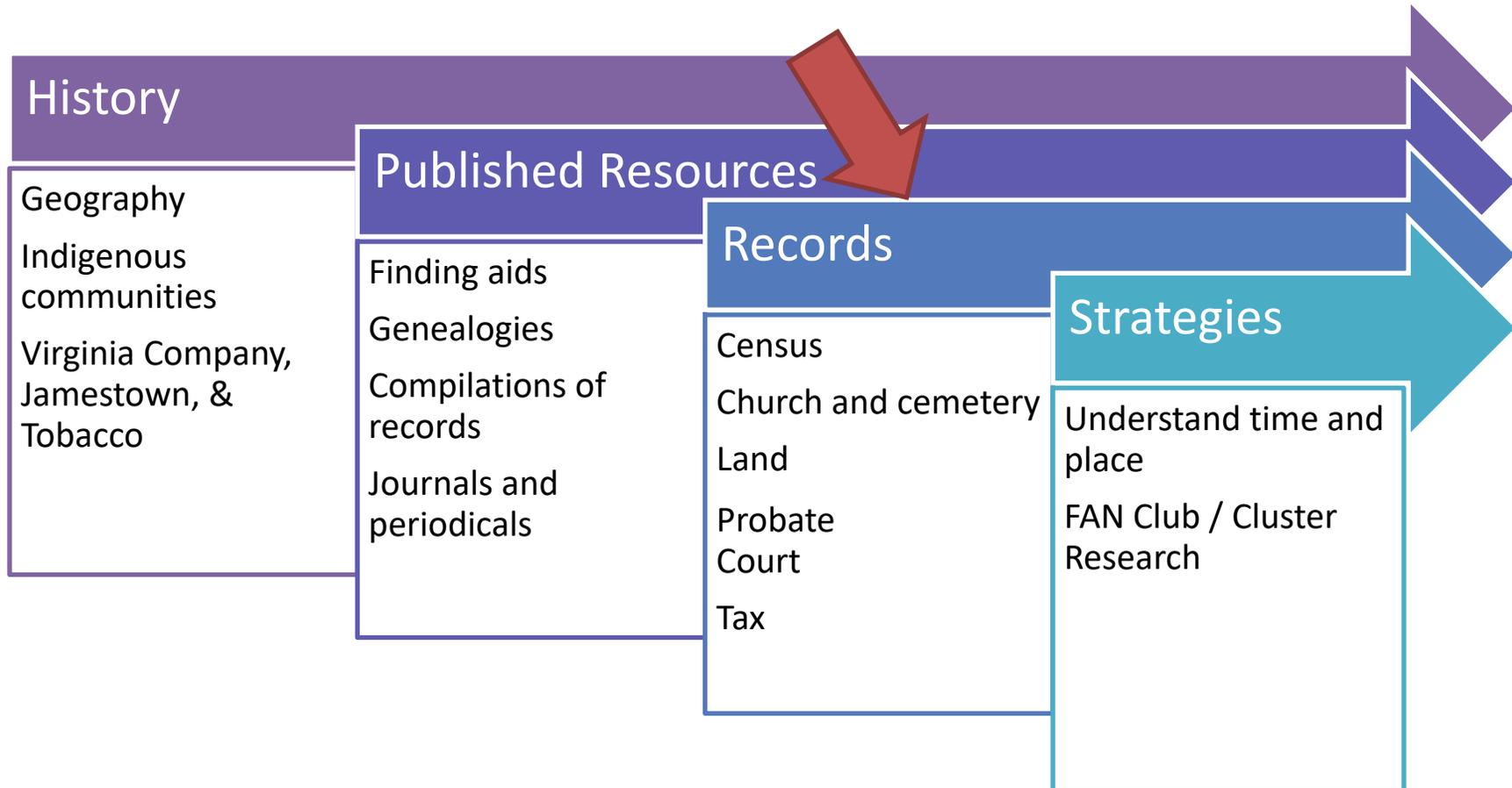
379/P.I.147 John Bowles, 22, of Middlesex, to Christopher Deane. 4 years.
Barnaby. 25 October 1683.

380/P.I.148 Edmund Rice(?), 21, of Middlesex, to Christopher Deane.
4 years. Barnaby. 25 October 1683.

381/P.I.149 Joseph Betts, 22, of Middlesex, to John Smith. 4 years.
Virginia Parks(?). 26 October 1683.



Overview



Early Virginia Records

- Census: Scattered Virginia Company records
- Church records: birth, baptism, marriage, death, burial, gravestone
- Land records: grants and deeds
- Probate records: will, inventory, guardianship
- Court:
 - County Courts
 - Virginia Company
 - House of Burgesses

Record Challenges

- Loss – fire, water, mold, war
- Jurisdictional changes – check your maps!
 - Newbury Library - *Atlas of Historical County Boundaries*
 - MapofUS.org
- Know when records began in your ancestor's area

Earliest Virginia Records			
Census Records	Church Records	Land Records	Court Records
1619	1646	1619	1608

1634 Virginia

Historical Borders

Select Date of Border Change:

- 1634-12-31
- 1636-12-31
- 1637-12-31
- 1642-12-31
- 1643-12-31
- 1648-12-31
- 1651-12-31
- 1652-12-31
- 1653-12-31
- 1654-12-31
- 1656-12-11
- 1656-12-31



County/Region:
ELIZABETH CITY (extinct)

Effective Dates:
Sun Dec 31 1634 - Tue Dec 30 1636

Description of Border Change:
[1634] ELIZABETH CITY (extinct) created as one of the eight original shires.

Map labels: Harrisburg*, Trenton*, PHILADELPHIA*, NEW JERSEY, York*, Wilmington*, Atlantic City*, MARYLAND, BALTIMORE*, DELAWARE, Morgantown*, Cumberland*, Winchester*, WASHINGTON D.C., WEST VIRGINIA, Fredericksburg*, Charlottesville*, NORFOLK*, Virginia Beach*, Greenville*, Charlotte*

Map controls: +, -, [], []

Map footer: Leaflet | © OpenStreetMap contributors, © CartoDB

<https://digital.newberry.org/ahcb/map/map.html#VA>

Newberry Atlas for Boundary Changes

LOWER NORFOLK (extinct)

- 1637 LOWER NORFOLK (extinct) created from NEW NORFOLK; NEW NORFOLK County eliminated. (Robinson, 59, 70, 85)
- 1640 Boundaries between LOWER NORFOLK (extinct) and UPPER NORFOLK (later NANSEMOND, extinct) redefined [no change]. (Hening, 1:228, 247; Robinson, 197-198)
- 16 May 1691 LOWER NORFOLK lost to creation of NORFOLK (extinct) and PRINCESS ANNE (extinct); LOWER NORFOLK County eliminated. (Hening, 3:95-96; Robinson, 63, 65)

NEW KENT

- 1654 NEW KENT created from YORK. (Hening, 1:387n., 388; Robinson, 62)
- 12 May 1691 NEW KENT lost to creation of KING AND QUEEN. (Hening, 3:94-95; Robinson, 57)

Isle of Wight County, Virginia

ISLE OF WIGHT

1634	WARROSQUYOAKE (now ISLE OF WIGHT) created as one of the original eight shires (counties). (Hening, 1:224; Tyler, 197-198)
1637	WARROSQUYOAKE renamed ISLE OF WIGHT. (Robinson, 82)
1640	ISLE OF WIGHT boundaries redefined [no change]. (Hening, 1:228, 247; Robinson, 197-198)
1647	Boundary between ISLE OF WIGHT and NANSEMOND (extinct) clarified [no change]. (Robinson, 198)
1656	ISLE OF WIGHT gained from NANSEMOND (extinct). (Hening, 1:423)
06 Aug 1701	Southern boundary of ISLE OF WIGHT clarified [no change]. (Winfrey, 2-3)

Record Loss in Early Counties

County	Est	Record Loss
Accomack	1633	No fires, but water and pest
Charles City	1634	1861-1865
Elizabeth City	1634	1812, 1861-1865
Essex	1692	None known
Gloucester	1651	Fires 1820 and 1865
Henrico	1634	Almost all prior to 1677 missing
Isle of Wight	1634	Loose papers prior to 1783
James City	1634	1865 fire
King and Queen	1691	1828, 1833, 1864 fires
Lancaster	1651	None known
Middlesex	1674	Loose papers lost in 1865

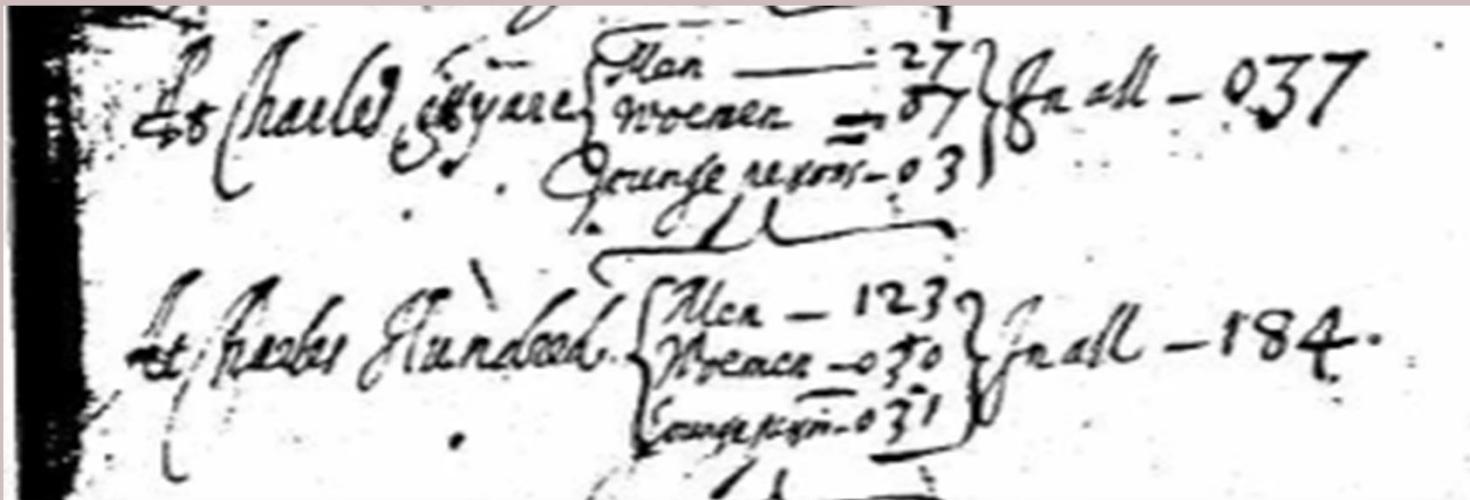
Information from FamilySearch.org Research Wikis

County	Est	Record Loss
Nansemond	1637	1734, 1779 and 1866
New Kent	1654	1787 Fire destroyed most colonial records
Upper and Lower Norfolk	1647	Extinct Counties
Northampton	1634	None known
Northumberland	1648	Some records lost in fire 1710
Princess Anne	1691	Records at Independent City Courthouse in Virginia Beach
Richmond	1692	Many lost records for "unknown reasons"
Stafford	1664	1861-1865
Surrey	1652	Most loose papers prior to 1806
Westmoreland	1653	Wills from 1600, also loose papers burned in Rev War
York	1643	Most loose papers prior to Rev War

Census

Census of 1619

- By location, counts but no names
- Published in Virginia Genealogical Society Quarterly, Vol 33 (3)



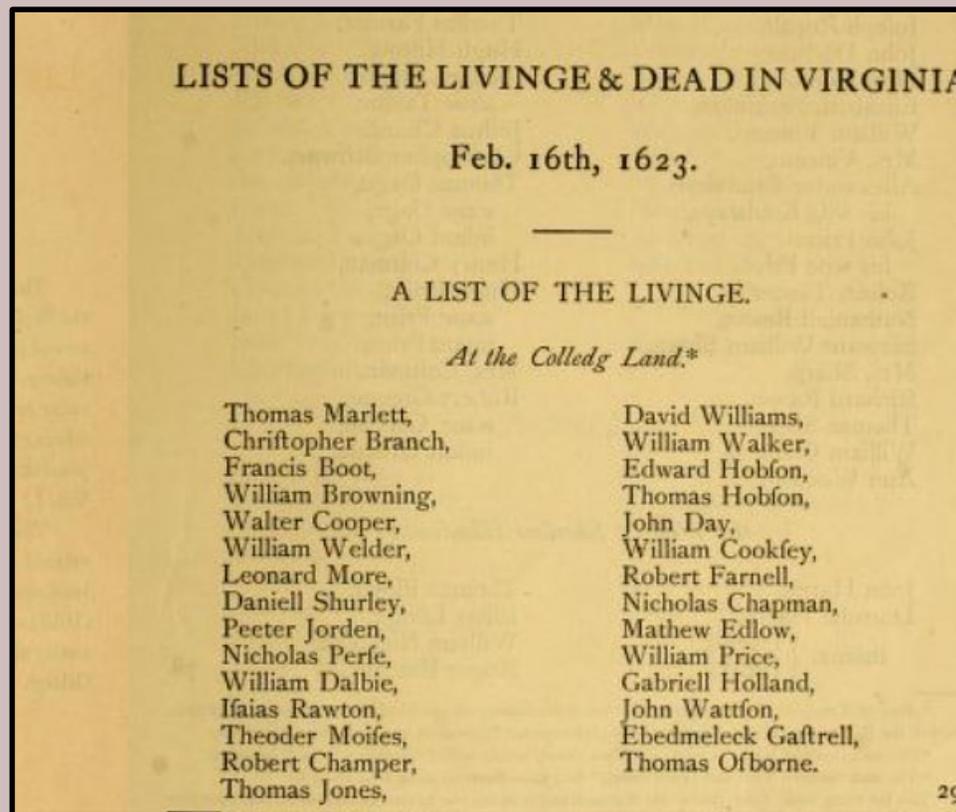
CONTENTS.	
I. The First Assembly of Virginia, held July 30, 1619,	9
<u>II. List of the living and the dead in Virginia, Feb'y 16, 1623,</u>	<u>37</u>
III. A briefe declaration of the plantation of Virginia, during the first twelve years, when Sir Thomas Smith was Governor of the Company, - - - -	69
<u>IV. A list of the number of men, women and children, inhabitants in the several Counties within the Collony of Virginia, in 1634, - - - -</u>	<u>91</u>
V. A letter from Charles II., acknowledging the receipt of a present of Virginia Silk, 1668, - - -	97
VI. A list of the Parishes in Virginia, 1680, - - -	103
VII. Addenda, - - - -	105

Colonial Records of Virginia by Virginia. General Assembly. Joint Committee on the State Library; Virginia. General Assembly. Senate; Wynne, Thomas Hicks, d. 1875

Colonial Records – Archive.org

Colonial Records – 1623/4

Living and Dead



Victims of the 1622 massacre

"Here following is set downe a true list of the names of all those that were massacred by the treachery of the Sauages in Virginia, the 22nd March last.

"To the end that their lawfull heyres may take speedy order for the inheritinge of their lands and estates there. For which the honourable Company of Virginia are ready to do them all right and fauour:"

At Captaine Berckley's Plantation, seated at Falling Creeke, some 66 miles from James Citie, in Virginia.

John Berkley, Esquire,
Thomas Brafington,
John Sawyer,
Roger Daud,
Francis Gowth,
Bartholmew Peram,
Giles Peram,
John Dowler,
Laurence Dowler,
Lewis Williams,
Richard Balcough,
Thomas Holland,

John Hunt,
Robert Horner Mafon,
Phillip Barnes,
William Swandal,
Robert Williams, his Wife and
Childe,
Giles Bradshawe, his Wife and
Childe,
John Howiet and his sonne,
Thomas Wood and Collins his man,
Joseph Fitch, apothecary to Doctor
Pots,

Colonial Records of Virginia: <https://archive.org/details/colonialrecordso00virg/page/104/mode/2up>

1624/5 Muster (Census)

- Ordered by King James after dissolution of London Company
- Includes information about household members, date of arrival, age
- Searchable database at virtualjamestown.org - 1624 census/muster
- Foundation for Dorman's Adventurers of Purse and Person

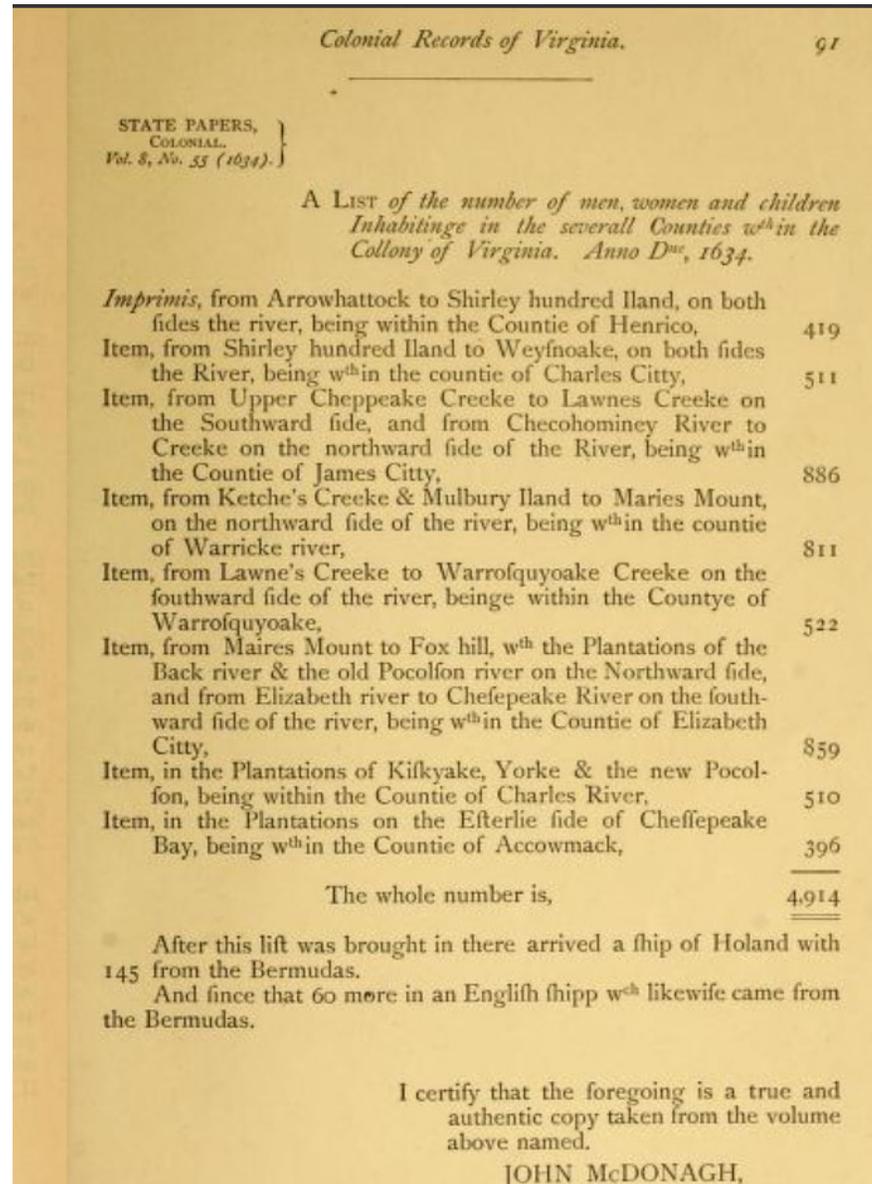
1624 Muster

Muster Search Results

Showing records 1 to 20 (20 total)

Name	Muster	Status	Location	Corporation	Age	Ship	Date of Arrival	Muster Date	Notes
William Smith	Smith William	head	Easterne shore over the Baye	Elizabeth Cittie	26	Sampson	1618	7 February 1624/5	
John Smith	Martin John Capt	not given	beyond Hampton River Beinge the Companyes land	Elizabeth Cittie	31	Swan	1624	7 February 1624/5	
Christopher Smith	Godby Thomas	not given	Elizabeth Cittie	Elizabeth Cittie	23	Returne	1624	7 February 1624/5	
William Smith	Peale Larence	not given	Elizabeth Cittie	Elizabeth Cittie	30	Jacob	1624	7 February 1624/5	
William Smith	Gookines Danniell Mr	servant	Newportes newes	Elizabeth Cittie	23	Flyinge Harte	1621	7 February 1624/5	
Robart Smith	Gookines Danniell Mr	servant	Newportes newes	Elizabeth Cittie	22		not given	7 February 1624/5	
Richard Smith	Addams Robert	servant	Martins Hundred	James Citty	24	George	1623	4 February 1624/5	
Nicholas Smith	Crowder Hugh mr	servant	mr Crowders Plant	James Citty	18	Bona Nova	1621	4 February 1624/5	"a boy"
John Smith	Smith John	head	Neck-of-Land	neare James Citty		Bonaventure	not given	4 February 1624/5	

<http://www.virtualjamestown.org/Muster/muster24.html>



Census of 1634 – Summary Only

Church and Cemetery

17th Century Church Records

- Registers
 - As the official religion of Virginia, Anglican Churches were required to keep track of births, marriages and deaths
 - Most colonial registers were lost when the Anglican Church was no longer the church of state
- Vestry Books
 - A scattered group of vestry books and parish registers (~ 30 pre-1675)

Anglican Vestries

- Responsible for:
 - Poll taxes to support church activities
 - Maintaining church property (real estate and religious items)
 - Charity to poor
 - Uphold social morals
- Many functions similar to New England town

The Churchwardens are hereby Impowered to Collect of Every Tythable in this parish 43 pounds of tobo per poll, and upon their refusall of payment to make distrefse for y^o same, and pay Each parish Creditor his due

Tax authority

[2] Upon y^o: request of Tho: Hide to y^o. vestry, they have bound unto him a Bastard child borne of Thomas wisdoms serv^r. woman, named Edward Grabige untill he come to y^o: age of twenty and one yeares, and he y^o: said Hide to be allowed five hundred lb: tobo and caske for keeping of y^o: said child next yeare, without any further charge to y^o: parish

Indenturing indigent children

Ordered that Daniel dickinson be Surveyor of y^o: highwayes for y^o: Lower parte of y^o: parish.

Road Maintenance

Ordered that John Swabbson be Surveyor of y^o: highwayes for y^o: middle parte of y^o: parish

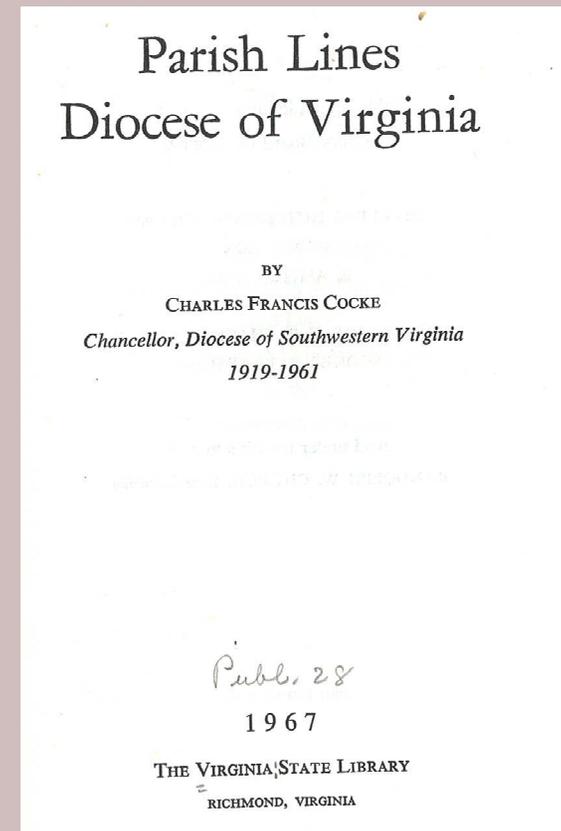
Ordered that m^r. Rob^t. Carter and Fran: Smithing be Surveyors of y^o: highwayes for y^o: upper parte of y^o: parish

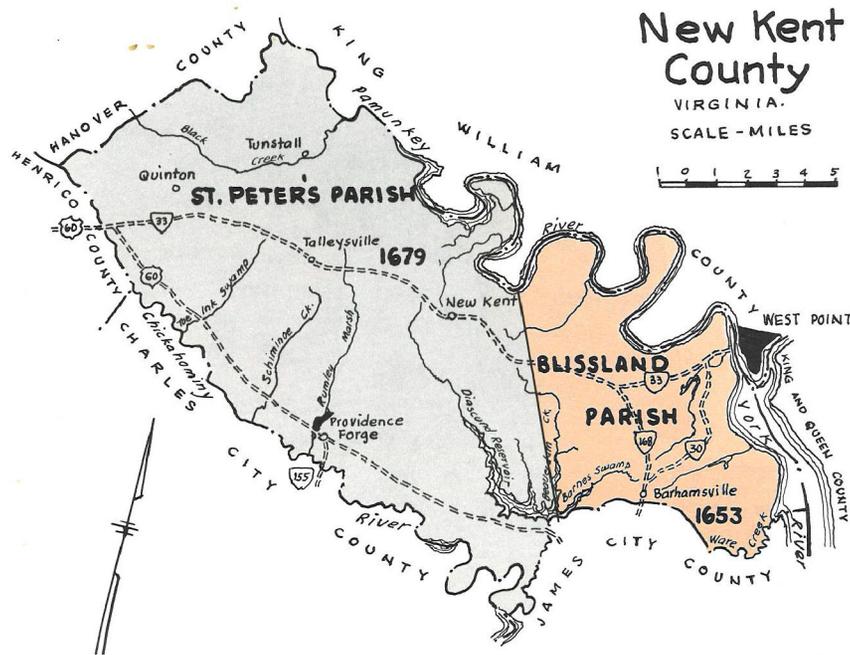
Ordered by this pⁿt vestry that m^r. Ralph Greene Sen^r be Churchwarden for y^o: Lower parte of y^o: parish, and to continue in y^o: said office dureing y^o: terme of two yeares next Ensueing accordinge to a former order of this vestry.

Petsworth Parish, Gloucester, VA,
1677

Finding the Colonial Parish

- Cocke Parish Lines series
 - Diocese of Virginia
 - Diocese of Southern Virginia
 - Diocese of Southwestern Virginia





298

ST. PETER'S PARISH, 1679-
(New Kent County, 1679-)

ST. PETER'S Parish was formed from Blissland Parish by the following order:

At a Gen'l Court held at James City, April 29th 1679, present Deputy Govn and Councill.

The Parish of Blissland petitioning, yt by unanimous consent of ye whole parish, a Division by sufficient men by them chosen is made of

ye sd p'ish, praying that ye Division be confirmed and foure of the Vestry appearing, and affirming that ye Division was made by consent of ye parish. This Court therefore confirmed the sd Division.¹²

The order specified no metes and bounds for the parish. Dr. Churchill Gibson Chamberlayne described the parish bounds as follows:

At the time of its establishment St. Peter's Parish was bounded on the northeast by the ridge between the Pamunkey and the Mattaponi rivers, on the southeast by John's (or Jack's) Creek (north of the Pamunkey) and by a line beginning at Capt. Bassett's Landing Creek (south of the Pamunkey), and on the southwest by the ridge between the Pamunkey and Chickahominy rivers. There was no boundary established on the northwest side, the Parish extending in that direction, theoretically speaking, indefinitely, while practically speaking it extended only so far as to the farthest point of settlement. Later, when in 1704 St. Peter's Parish was itself divided, the upper (or northwest) portion being established as St. Paul's Parish, the dividing line between the two parishes (Matadequin Creek), which in 1720 became also the dividing line between New Kent and the newly created County of Hanover, became St. Peter's northwest boundary line. . . .

Making up for the losses of territory and inhabitants suffered in 1691, when that part of St. Peter's Parish northeast of the Pamunkey was annexed to St. John's Parish, and in 1704 when St. Paul's Parish was established to the northwest, the General Assembly ordered that on and after March 1, 1725, all that part of the parish of Wilmington lying on the (north) east side of Chickahominy River and above (i.e. northwest of) Blissland Parish as added to by the same Act be added to St. Peter's Parish. From 1725 onward then St. Peter's Parish extended from the Pamunkey on the northeast to the Chickahominy on the southwest and from Blissland Parish on the southeast to St. Paul's Parish (Hanover County) on the northwest.¹³

Parish Lines – New Kent County

Probate

Wills and Estate Records Index

An index of estate administration records, including wills, inventories, sales, and other documents, from 1633 to 1800, found in the will books of fifty-one Virginia counties and cities

Contact Us



Archives Reference Services
Library of Virginia
800 E. Broad St.
Richmond, VA 23219
804-692-3888
archdesk@lva.virginia.gov



Social:

Search the Index

Wills and Estate Records Index

Overview

This is an index of estate administration records, including wills, inventories, sales, and other documents, from 1633 to 1800, found in the will books of fifty-one Virginia counties and cities. In some cases, estate records found in county order books and other records are also indexed. For a few localities, the index includes records issued after 1800.

<https://lva-virginia.libguides.com/wills>

200 LIBRARY OF VIRGINIA 1823 - 2023 SEARCH BROWSE CATALOG USER GUIDE DIGITAL COLLECTIONS DISCOVERY ...   Sign in Menu

Rolfe X Everything   ADVANCED SEARCH

Sign in to request items  Sign in | X DISMISS

Active filters 0 selected 3 Results  

-  Wills and Administrations I... X
-  Remember all filters
-  Reset filters

Refine your results

Sort by Relevance ▾

Collections ^

- Archives and Manuscripts (3) 

1		INDEX ENTRY Rolfe, John. 1621-1622 Index entry >	   
2		INDEX ENTRY Rolfe, John. 1754 Index entry >	   
3		INDEX ENTRY Rough. John.	   

Results

Land

Why Use Land Records

- Puts the ancestor(s) in a certain place in time
- May detail family relationships directly or via context clues
- May expand circle of friends, neighbors, etc.
- May shed light on ancestor's economic status, standing in community, and movements

Virginia Land Grants

- Background info on records at Land Office
- 3 chapters:
 - The Land Patent Books
 - kept by Virginia government
 - The Northern Neck Grant Books
 - kept by proprietors
 - Original Differences & Ultimate Accord
- Purpose to study:
 - Local resistance
 - Ultimate acceptance

CHAPTER THREE

The Original difference and Ultimate accord between the Land Patent and the Northern Neck Grant.

NO student of the political records of Virginia has failed to note, often with surprise, the sudden change of local sentiment with respect to the Northern Neck proprietary after the close of the seventeenth century. About 1705 the descendants of those who had seated plantations above the Rappahannock under Virginia patents and had vigorously protested the existence of the proprietary, peacefully paid their quit rents to the proprietors: an

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English government g
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feeling during which
Court, there were otl
the ultimate popular a
tution. The evidence
rayed in the foregoing
a generalization from
challenging historical

Virginia Land Grants

*A Study of Conveyancing in
Relation to Colonial Politics*

Harrison, Fairfax, 1869-1938



PRIVATELY PRINTED
THE OLD DOMINION PRESS
RICHMOND
1925

Virginia Land Records

- From
 - *Virginia Magazine of History and Biography*
 - *William and Mary College Quarterly*
 - *Tyler's Quarterly Historical and Genealogical Magazine*
- Online at Ancestry.com

Note

VIRGINIA LAND RECORDS is composed of articles excerpted from *The Virginia Magazine of History and Biography*, the *William and Mary College Quarterly Historical Magazine*, and *Tyler's Quarterly Historical and Genealogical Magazine*. It is primarily a compilation of articles dealing with early Virginia land records namely deeds, surveys, warrants, conveyances, patents, and grants and contains virtually every article pertaining to the transfer and ownership of real property ever published in these periodicals. Most of the articles identify tenants, owners, and occupiers of specific parcels of land and thus have the merit of placing individuals and whole families in a particular place at a definite time. Others are simply listings of landholders—taxpayers and grantees, for example. Perhaps the most interesting are those published by William Stanard under the heading “Abstracts of Virginia Land Patents.” These particular articles contain a great deal of genealogical information not found in the series of abstracts later published by Nell Marion Nugent in *Cavaliers and Pioneers*, the seminal work on Virginia patents and grants. Taken together, the articles assembled here provide a fresh look at the findings of a previous generation of researchers and increase our esteem for the resources of periodical literature.

Genealogical Publishing Company

VIRGINIA

Land Records

From The Virginia Magazine of History and Biography,
the William and Mary College Quarterly,
and Tyler's Quarterly

Contents

LAND RECORDS BY COUNTY

Amelia County

Amelia County Records, 1735-1740, by W. S. Morton, from *TQ*,
XXII (1941), 185-189 1

Amherst County

Colonel James Higginbotham, Surveyor of Amherst County, Va.,
by Mrs. William Montgomery Sweeny, from *W&MCQ*, 2nd
Series, XI (1931), 29-41 6

Caroline County

Caroline County Survey Book, by Lewis Beckner, from
W&MCQ, 1st Series, XIX (1911), 168-173 19
Emigrants to Caroline County, Va., by J. L. Miller, from *VMHB*,
XVIII (1910), 193-194 25

Charles City County

Charles City County Patents Issued During the Regal Govern-
ment, from *W&MCQ*, 1st Series, IX (1901), 227-233; X
(1901/1902), 24-31, 245-251; XIII (1904), 116-121 26

Charlotte County

Clayton Deeds from Charlotte County, by W. S. Morton, from
VMHB, XXXVII (1929), 170-172 52

Essex County

Gleanings from the Records of (Old) Rappahannock County and
Essex County, Va., by William Montgomery Sweeny, from
W&MCQ, 2nd Series, XVIII (1938), 297-313 55
Some Memoranda from Essex County, Va., Records, by R.
Warren Barkley, from *VMHB*, XVII (1909), 444-445 72

Gloucester County

[Indenture of] Jones of Gloucester County, Va., by J. D. Eggle-
ston, from *TQ*, XI (1929), 141-142 73

Indexed by Gary Parks

Baltimore
GENEALOGICAL PUBLISHING CO., INC.
1982

EMIGRANTS TO CAROLINE COUNTY, VA.

The following persons proved upon oath before the Caroline
County Court that they had come into the Colony of Virginia
from Great Britain in the years named, and had not previously
claimed the fifty acres of land allowed them by the law of the
colony for the same :

At the April Court, 1744—

Thomas Wild, Gent.,	in 1732,
John Miller	" 1742,
Charles Stuart	" 1742,
Robt. Gilcrease	" 1739,
John Ray	" 1738,
Alex. Marr	" 1740,
John Howie	" 1740,
Arch. Richie	" 1740.

At the January Court, 1755—

Thos. Rogers, Gent.,	in 1752,
Wm. Conn, Gent.,	" 1733,
Robert Robertson	" 1727,
Wm. Holmes	" 1754,
Peter Copeland	" 1743,
John Spaulding	" 1741,
John Mitchell	" 1744,
Jos. Sterling	" 1740,

34. For Capt. Joseph Berry, 286 acres in Drysdale Parish,
near Col. William Beverley, Thacker, Baylor and Taylor, on Jan-
uary 4th, 1739.

35. For prison bounds, 10 acres, on March 14th, 1752.

36. For William Coune, 1,165 acres, on February 9th, 1754.

37. For 96 acres lapsed from William Morris by Col. Edwin
Pendleton, February 28th, 1757.

38. For Adam Lindsey, 290 acres, on July 11th, 1755.

39. For William Butwell, 18 acres, on Dec. 31st, 1759.

40. For Absalom Davis, 72 acres, on May 7th, 1759.

41. For John Micou, 138 acres, in the Sunken-ground or Per-
corson, on November 29th, 1760.

42. For the executor of Henry Terrell, deceased, 255 acres
lapsed of John Chiles. This survey made by Edward Vauter,
assistant. Not dated.

43. For Lawrence Taliaferro, 12 acres and 42 poles of sunken
land, on March 17th, 1761.

44. For Robert Goodloe, of Spotsylvania, 190 acres, on Jan-
uary 22d, 1762.

45. For Samuel Hargrave, 15 acres on Fleming Island, Jan-
uary 26th, 1762.

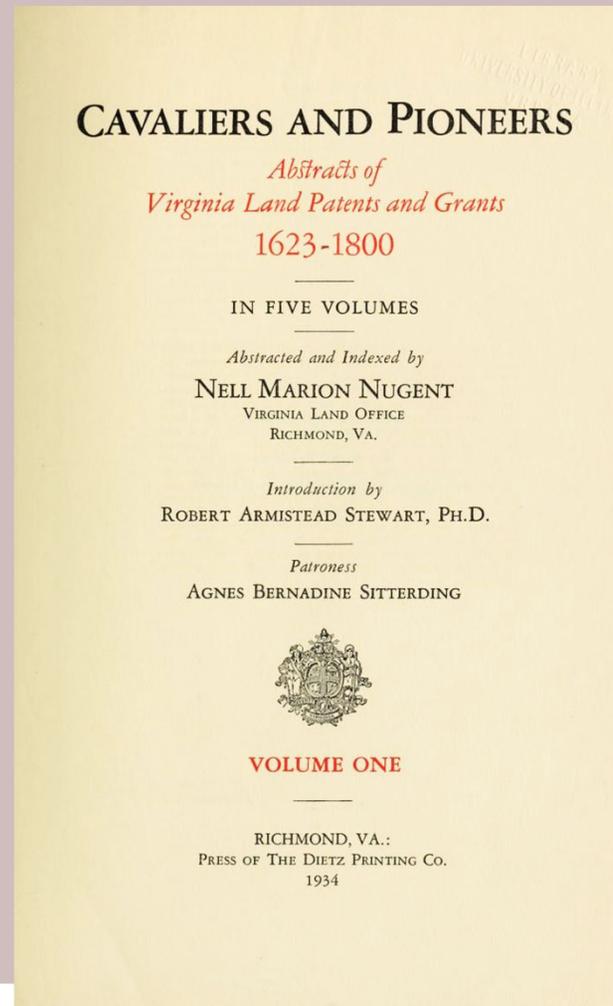
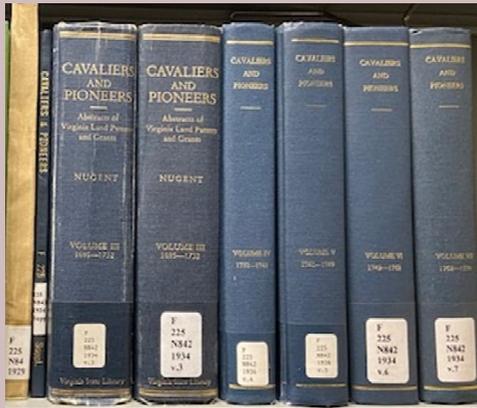
These notes were not taken with a view to form the basis for
this article, else they would have been more complete, and would
have given every name mentioned in each survey. The book cap-
tured my attention because I was on the chase of some elusive
Taliaferro ancestors, and it looked like it would repay an inves-
tigation. Seeing it was so full of Taliaferro names, I made the
above abstract. It will be noticed that the entries in which Talia-

ferro have been more fully noted by me. My mother,
ferro, was a daughter of Major John Taliaferro, of
, Ky.; he the son of Hay Taliaferro, who came to
ity, Ky., about 1812, from Caroline county, Va., and
of William Taliaferro, of the latter county, and his
aret Aylett.

Example pages

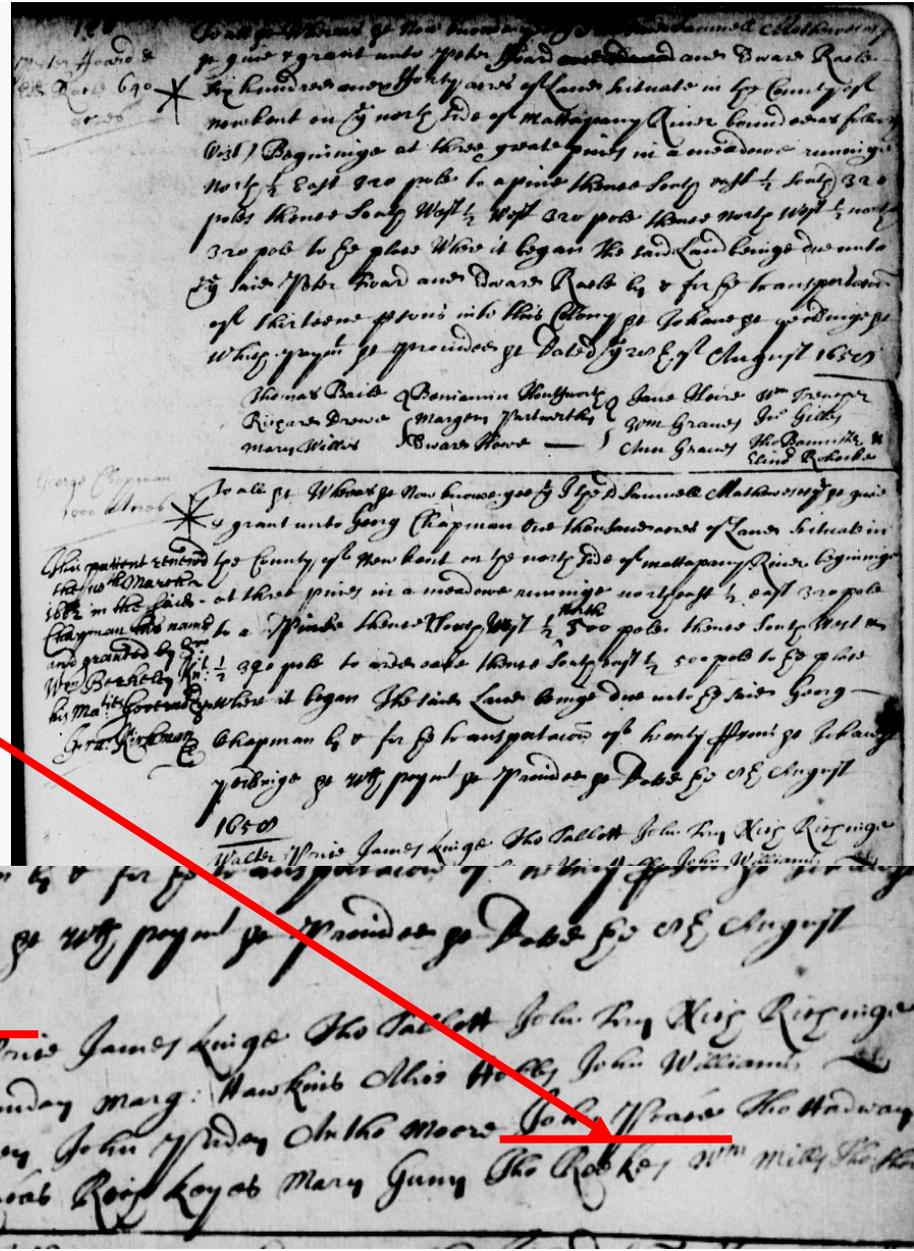
Cavaliers and Pioneers

- Abstracts of Virginia Land Patents and Grants
 - 42 volumes of colonial patent books
 - Begin 1623



GEORG CHAPMAN, 1000 acs. New Kent Co., 8 Aug. 1658, p. 186, (274). On N. side of Mattapany Riv.. Trans. of 20 pers: Walter Price, James Kinge, Tho. Talbott, John Fry, Nich. Richinge, Robert Munday, Marg. Hawkins, Alice Hobbs John Williams, Wm. Sidney,

John Padey, Anth. Moore, John Peace, Tho. Hadway, Joseph Lucas, Rich. Keyes, Mary Guny, Tho. Reekes, Wm. Mills, Tho. Shore. Renewed 18 Mar. 1662.



John Peace's transport



Search

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[The Library of Virginia](#) / [Research Guides & Indexes](#) / [Virginia Land Patents and Grants](#) / Home

Virginia Land Patents and Grants

Virginia land patents (1623–1774) and land grants (1779–2000), including land grants within the Northern Neck proprietary (1690–1874) and survey plats and descriptions for Northern Neck land grants (1786–1874)

- [Home](#)
- [Related Resources](#)

Contact Us



Archives Reference Services
Library of Virginia
800 E. Broad St.
Richmond, VA 23219
804-692-3888
archdesk@lva.virginia.gov

Search the Online Collection

- Browse Virginia Land Office patent and grants volumes [chronological list](#).
- Browse Northern Neck Proprietary grants and survey volumes [chronological list](#).

Virginia Land Patents and Grants

Overview

This collection consists of Virginia land patents (1623–1774) and land grants (1779–February 2000), including land grants within the Northern Neck proprietary (1690–1874) and survey plats and descriptions for the Northern Neck land grants (1786–1874).

The Virginia government began recording land patents around 1623 when the royal governor, as the agent of English crown, assumed control over the distribution of unappropriated land within the new

<https://lva-virginia.libguides.com/land-grants>

The screenshot shows the Library of Virginia website interface. At the top left is the logo for the 200th anniversary (1823-2023). Navigation links include SEARCH, BROWSE, CATALOG USER GUIDE, DIGITAL COLLECTIONS DISCOVERY, and VIRGINIA UNTOLD SEARCH. A search bar contains the text "George Chapman" and has a dropdown menu set to "Everything". Below the search bar is a yellow banner with "Sign in to request items" and "DISMISS".

The search results are displayed on a light gray background. On the left, there are active filters: "Land Office/Northern Neck..." (highlighted in yellow), "Remember all filters", and "Reset filters". Below this is a "Refine your results" section with "Sort by Title" and "Collections" (Digital Collections (32), Land Office/Northern Neck (32), Patents & Grants). The "Subject" section lists various categories like "Land grants Virginia New Kent County" (11), "New Kent County (Va.) History 17th century" (11), and "Land titles Registration and transfer Virginia New Kent County" (11).

The main results area shows four items, all labeled "ARCHIVAL MATERIAL" and "Land grant 1 April 1857." Each item includes a document icon, a numbered box (1-4), and a "Available Online" link. The descriptions for items 1, 2, and 3 mention "Chapman, Henry D. grantee; Virginia. Land Office. Register; Library of Virginia. Archives. 1857 - 0401". Item 4 mentions "Lynch, George, Jr. grantee; Virginia. Land Office. Register; Library of Virginia. Archives. 1857 - 0401".

Results filtered for Land Office

Subject ^

- Land grants Virginia New Kent County (11)
- New Kent County (Va.) History 17th century (11)
- Land titles Registration and transfer Virginia New Kent County (11)
- Chapman, George (10)
- Chapman, George. grantee (9)
- Show More

Author/Creator ^

- Library Of Virginia Archives (31)
- Virginia Land Office Register (17)
- Virginia Colonial Land Office (13)
- Chapman George (9)
- Chapman Henry D (3)
- Show More

Resource Type ^

- Archival Materials (32)

Publication Date ^

From 630 to 1700 [Refine](#)

5 ARCHIVAL MATERIAL [Link](#) [Email](#) [Bookmark](#) [More](#)
Land grant 1 April 1857.
Lynch, George, Jr. grantee.; Virginia. Land Office. Register.; Library of Virginia. Archives.
1857 - 0401
[Available Online](#) >

6 ARCHIVAL MATERIAL [Link](#) [Email](#) [Bookmark](#) [More](#)
Land grant 1 April 1857.
Lynch, George, Jr. grantee.; Virginia. Land Office. Register.; Library of Virginia. Archives.
1857 - 0401
[Available Online](#) >

7 ARCHIVAL MATERIAL [Link](#) [Email](#) [Bookmark](#) [More](#)
Land grant 1 July 1653.
Priddy, Robert. grantee.; Virginia. Colonial Land Office.; Library of Virginia. Archives.
1653 - 0701
[Available Online](#) >

8 ARCHIVAL MATERIAL [Link](#) [Email](#) [Bookmark](#) [More](#)
Land grant 1 October 1803.
Wylie, John. grantee.; Virginia. Land Office. Register.; Library of Virginia. Archives.
1803 - 1001
[Available Online](#) >

9 ARCHIVAL MATERIAL [Link](#) [Email](#) [Bookmark](#) [More](#)
Land grant 1 September 1658.
Chapman, George. grantee.; Virginia. Colonial Land Office.; Library of Virginia. Archives.
1658 - 0901
[Available Online](#) >

Finding the date filter

Active filters

- Land Office/Northern Neck... X
- Years: 630-1700 X
- Remember all filters
- Reset filters

Refine your results

Sort by Title ▾

Collections ^

- Digital Collections (14) X
- Land Office/Northern Neck (14) X
- Patents & Grants

Subject ^

- Land grants Virginia New Kent County (11) X
- New Kent County (Va.) History 17th century (11) X

0 selected PAGE 2 14 Results

12 ARCHIVAL MATERIAL
Land grant 4 November 1685.
Leigh, William. grantee.; Virginia. Colonial Land Office.; Library of Virginia. Archives.
1685 - 1104
[Available Online >](#)

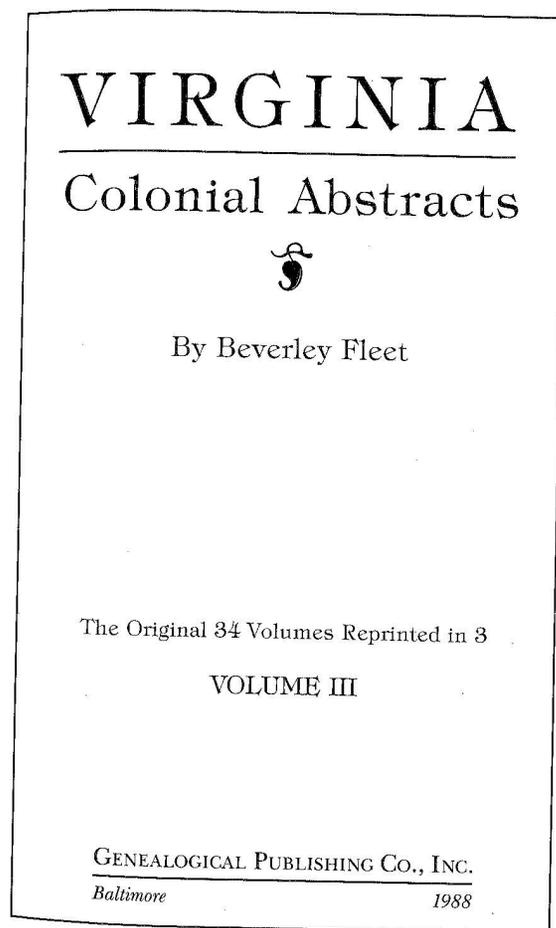
13 ARCHIVAL MATERIAL
Land grant 7 August 1658.
Chapman, George. grantee.; Virginia. Colonial Land Office.; Library of Virginia. Archives.
1658 - 0807
[Available Online >](#)

14 ARCHIVAL MATERIAL
Land grant 8 August 1658.
Chapman, George. grantee.; Virginia. Colonial Land Office.; Library of Virginia. Archives.
1658 - 0808
[Available Online >](#)

< 1 2

Results with added date filter

Court



YORK COUNTY, 1633-1646

23

No.2. p.65. [3 January 1645/6]. Phillipp Thacker sworn undersheriff by Capt Richd Townshend at request of Capt Wm Taylor the High Sheriff of this County. Signed Ro Bouth, Clr.

No.2. p.65. A Court for York 20 Jan 1645/6. Present: Capt Nicholas Martiau, Capt John Chisman, Mr Robert Vaus, Mr Wm Pryor, Mr Rowland Burnham, Mr Francis Morgan.

No.2. p.65. Order that Jeffery Power pay debt of 600 lb tobo due Mr Zacray Cripps in 10 days.

No. p.65. Order that Tho Nightingale pay debt of 288 lb tobo due to Arthur Price the assignee of Capt Henry Fleete within 10 days.

No.2. p.65. Entry mutilated. This abstract is from the transcript of 1894. Thos Harwood exor of estate of Christopher Bartlett ordered to pay a debt.

No.2. p.66. Order that Martin Westerlin pay debt of 600 lb tobo due Arthur Price within 10 days.

No.2. p.66. Wm Harefinck ordered to pay debt 400 lb tobo due Arthur Price within 10 days.

No.2. p.66. Michell Saturway ordered to pay debt 300 lb tobo due Richard Evens within 10 days.

Beverley Fleet Colonial Abstracts

Virginia Colonial Abstracts
Volume 11
Charles City County
Court Orders 1653 - 1661

CHARLES CITY COUNTY
Court Order Book

page 137

Att a Co'rt held att merchts hope Apr 20. 1658

Present

	mr Thomas Drewe
mr Anthony Wyatt	Capt Robt Wynne
Capt John Epes	mr James Barker
	mr ffran Epes

page 137. mr James Barker and mr Francis Epes sworne Com'rs

page 137. Abstract. Hugh Evans ord. to pay Tho. Hamond 435 lb. tobo.
Also Wm. Greene ord. to pay Hamond 300 lb. tobo.

page 137. Abstract. Geo. Atkins ord. to pay Robt. Rowsse two cows
in ten days.

page 137. Ca: Stegge present

page 137. Abstract. Upon petition of Walter Salter agt. Tho. Stinson
"it apper'eth to the Co'rt that the sd businesse is a vexatious
turbulent cause allready judged and decided severall times" - there-
fore dismissed. John Stith for the plt. appeals to next Quarter
Court.

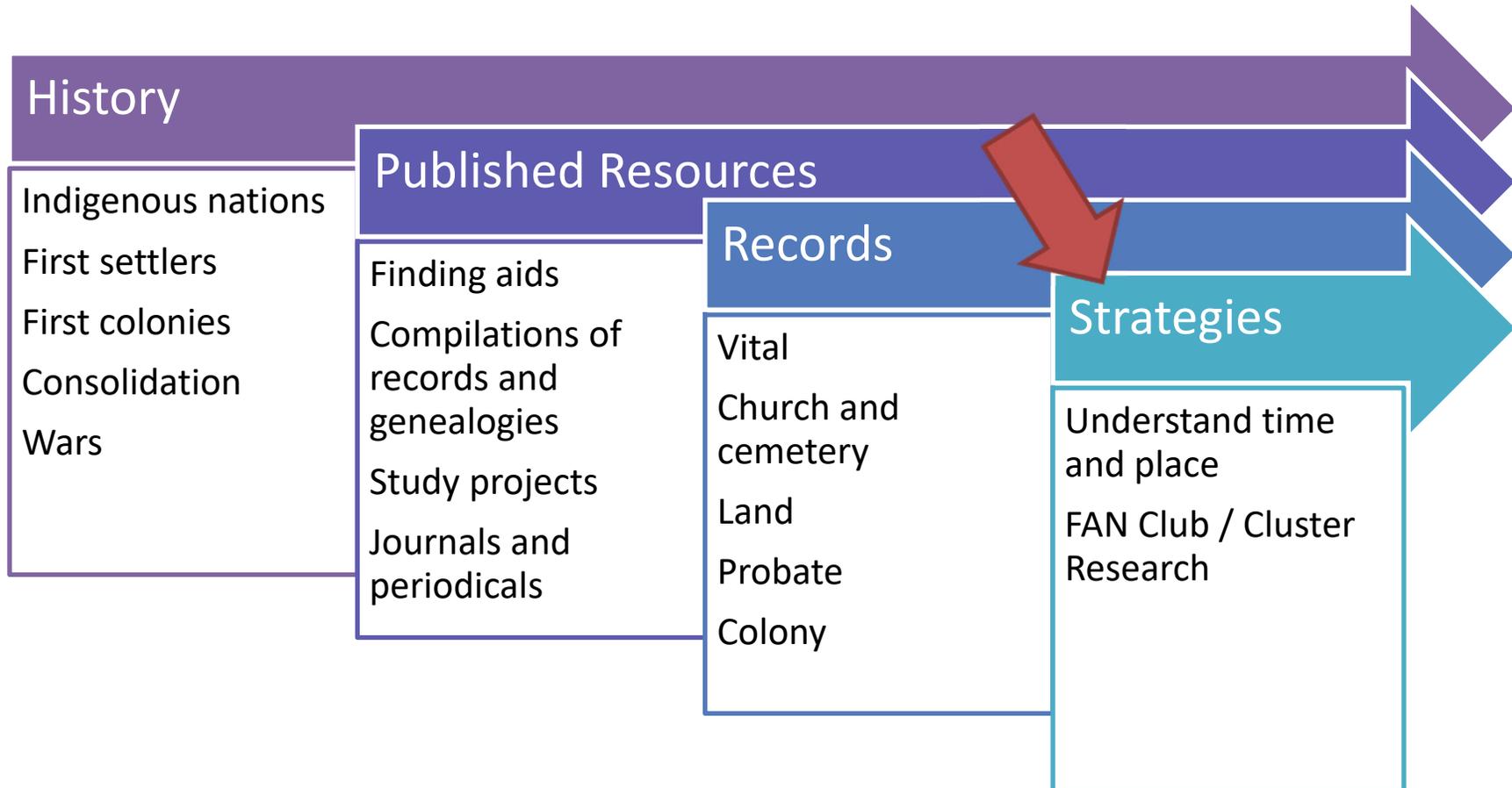
Beverly Fleet
Box 5161 - Saunders Sta.,
Richmond, Virginia.

Beverly Fleet – Colonial Court
Abstracts for:
Charles City County
Henrico County
Northumberland
Lancaster County
Accomack
Northumbria
Westmoreland
York

Charles City Court Records

QUESTIONS?

Overview



Strategies

Use the Library of Virginia

- “Genealogical Records at the Library of Virginia”
- Research Guides and Indexes
- Land records – online
- Wills and Estate Records Index
- Lost Record Localities Collection
- Colonial records project
- Historic Virginia Documents

<p>1607-1680</p>	<p>Adventurers of Purse and Person, F229 J9 2004</p> <p>Colonial Records Project</p> <p>Wills and Estate Records Index (Torrence) F225 T85 1972</p> <p>Land Office</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Searchable Online Database• <i>Cavaliers and Pioneers, F225 N842 1992</i>• <i>Virginia Northern Neck Land Grants, F232 N86 G72 1987</i> <p>Records of the Virginia Company, F229 V86 1993</p> <p>Virginia Historical Index (Swem)</p>
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<https://www.lva.virginia.gov/public/guides/time.htm>



GENEALOGICAL RECORDS AT THE LIBRARY OF VIRGINIA

The Library of Virginia was created by the General Assembly in 1823 to organize, care for, and manage the state's growing collection of books and official records. Today the Library houses a vast collection of materials on Virginia government, history, and culture. In addition to managing and preserving its printed, manuscript, map, and photograph collections, the Library supplies research and reference assistance to state officials, provides consulting services to state and local government agencies and to Virginia's public libraries, administers numerous federal, state, and local grant programs, publishes books on Virginia history, and offers the public a wide array of educational programs. An experienced staff is available to provide advice and assistance in using the rich and varied resources in the collections. For more on the Library's history and holdings, see *The Common Wealth: Treasures from the Collections of the Library of Virginia*, edited by Sandra Gioia Treadway and Edward D. C. Campbell, Jr. (1997).

Manuscript Sources

As the repository of the commonwealth's historically valuable records, the Archives houses a wealth of materials containing genealogical source material. Among these holdings are records of the colonial and state governments; copies of extant county court records such as wills, deeds, orders, and marriage bonds; church records; personal papers; business records; organization records; cemetery records; Bible records; and genealogical notes and charts. There is no comprehensive index to these holdings, but researchers may consult the online Archives & Manuscripts catalog, as well as a variety of published archival guides. Researchers may also consult a series of research notes compiled by the Archives staff.

Tax Records

While there are some extant colonial tithable records, the collection generally begins in 1782 and is composed of personal property and land tax lists arranged by county/city, which are on microfilm up to 1900 for land and up to 1920 for personal property. These include counties now in West Virginia. They are unindexed and contain the names and/or numbers of taxable persons. An in-house guide to tithable records is available. Personal property tax lists for 1787 were published in Nettie Schreiner Yantis and Florence S. Love, comps. *The 1787 Census*

Genealogical Records at LVA

Research Guides & Indexes

Resources created by Library of Virginia librarians and archivists

BY SUBJECT VIEW ALL

Search: Search

African American Resources 6	Military Service: Civil War 9
Asian Pacific Islander Desi American (APIDA) Resources 4	Military Service: Other Records 11
Biographical and Genealogical Resources 19	Military Service: Revolutionary War 5
Births, Deaths, Marriages (Vital Records) 12	Native American Resources 1
Business Records 6	Newspapers 7
Collections in Library Catalog 71	Photographs and Images 36
County and City Research (Virginia, West Virginia, and Kentucky) 8	Slavery 3
General Reference 4	Tax Records 6
Journals and Magazines 3	Virginia Government Records 11
Land Patents and Grants 5	Virginia History and Culture 11
Legal Resources 9	Women's History 4
Maps and Architecture 14	

Categories of Research Guides

Common Challenges

- Record loss due to mold, water and fire
- Connecting an arrival record (e.g. headright mention) to a person with the same name, in the same place 100 years later

Record Loss Strategies

- Challenge: John Peace appears in headright land record to George Chapman, New Kent County
- New Kent County has extensive record loss
- What to do?
 - Try Library of Virginia



Lost Records Localities Digital Collection

This collection consists of images for a wide variety of court records found as part of chancery and other locality records-processing projects. The images are of surviving records from localities where most records are no longer extant. The original record is scanned and the images are filed together in an artificial online collection—the Lost Records Localities Digital Collection. Please check periodically as this is an ongoing project.

Record Loss Strategies

New Kent County (57)

New Kent County was created in 1654. [More...](#)

Nottoway County (63)

Nottoway County was created by an act of 1788 to

Prince George County (93)

Prince George County was created by an act of 17

Collection Information ✕

Collection: New Kent County

Records were destroyed when John Posey set fire to the courthouse on 15 July 1787. Many records were lost when the courthouse was partially destroyed by fire during Civil War hostilities in 1862. Additional records were burned in Richmond on 3 April 1865, where they had been moved for safekeeping during the Civil War.

[Close](#)

https://www.virginiamemory.com/collections/collections_a_to_z

Brief view Table view Full view			Sort by: Title				
Records 21- 40 of 56			1 2 3				
	Title	pid	Call Number	Creator	Subject	Date Issued	Parent
21	Foster, James vs. John Graves: Judgment	99789					
22	Goldwell, Nicholas: Will	99800					
23	Gray, William to widow of William Chamberlayn [Chamberlayne]: Marriage Record	99832					
24	Harrison, C. L.: Plat	99829					
25	Harrison, C. L.: Plat	99830					
26	Hatton, William & wife Frances to Isaac Perkins: Deed	99794					
27	Jordan, Samuel: Will	99779					
28	Land Tax Books (extracts)	99798					
29	Lewis, Sarah: Free Negro Registration	99801	1203566				
30	Littlepage, Frances vs. Stephen Crump: Judgment	99783					
31	Macon, Gideon: Will	99796					
32	Macon, Sarah: Will	99824					
33	Manning, William: Will	99818					
34	Meredith, Samuel: Will	99820					
35	Pearson, Charles: Will	99828					
36	Perkins, Robert and Pleasant Bradley: Survey	99817					
37	Perkins, Robert to Pleasant Bradley: Deed	99815					
38	Posey, John Price: Estate Accounts	99808					
39	Prentis, William vs. Admr. Of Charles Massie: Judgment	99793					
40	Randolph, Thomas vs. William Howle: Judgment	99781					

Digital Lost Records Collection New Kent County

Connecting Ancestors

- You may not find one “smoking-gun” record; you may need to build a case with multiple records
- Essential Strategy: Research the ancestors associates and neighbors (Cluster Research or FAN Club Research)
- Some records may be less reliable than others; seek originals if you can
- May need to have, and exhaust, several working theories

And keep in mind . . .

- Terms of kinship may have different meanings in 17th-century:
 - Nephew and nieces may be referred to as “cousins”
 - Sometimes “brother” or “sister” can be indications of brothers and sisters within a faith
 - “Father” and “Mother” could refer to in-laws
- Use of “Jr” and “Sr” typically mean younger versus older and don’t necessarily mean kinship

Summary

- Educate yourself about the history of the time period, especially government and religious jurisdictions – that is where the records are
- Don't reinvent the wheel - look at published sources in combination with originals
- Record loss of 17th century Virginia records doesn't spell doom – try cluster research to circle around your ancestor

QUESTIONS?

Hire Research Services

research@nehgs.org

Chat with a Genealogist

AmericanAncestors.org/chat



THANK YOU!

AmericanAncestors.org/Education



NEW ENGLAND HISTORIC
GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

AmericanAncestors.org

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