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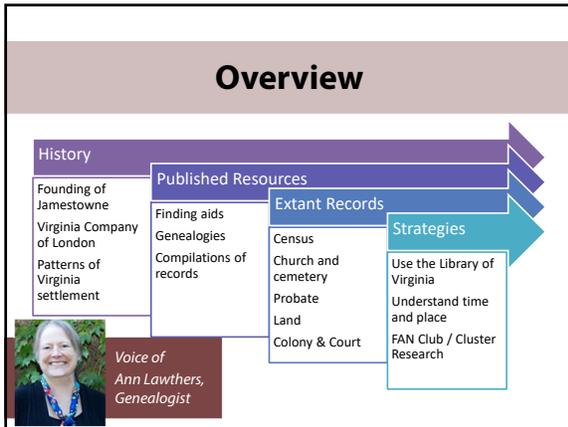
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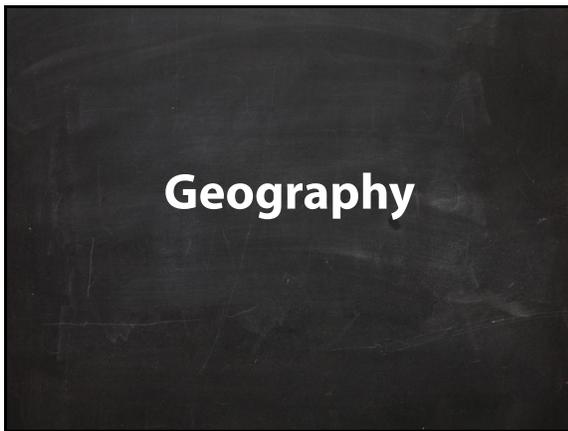
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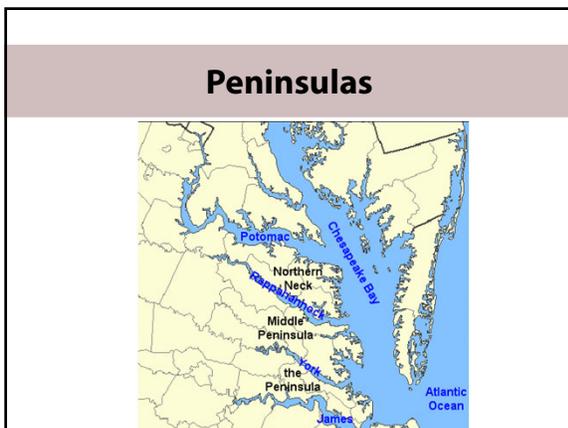
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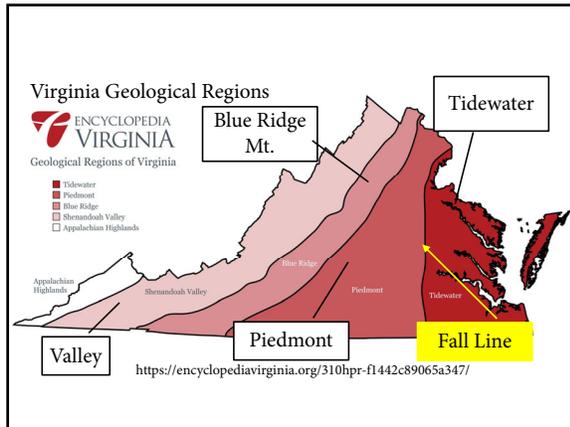
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### Indigenous People and Language Groups

- 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 Peckham, Atlas of Historical Geography 1932

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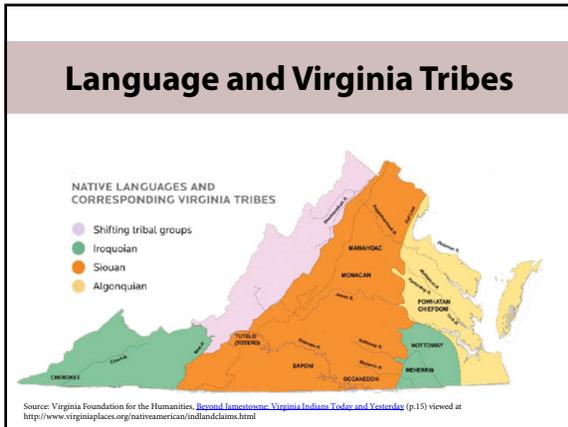
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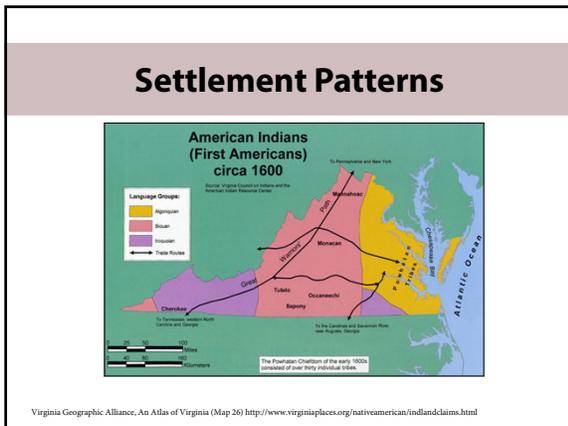
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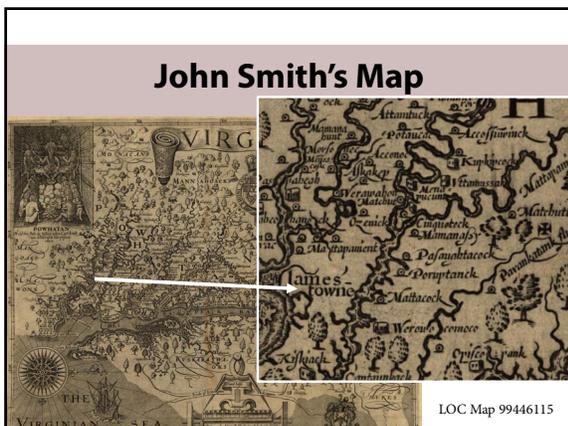
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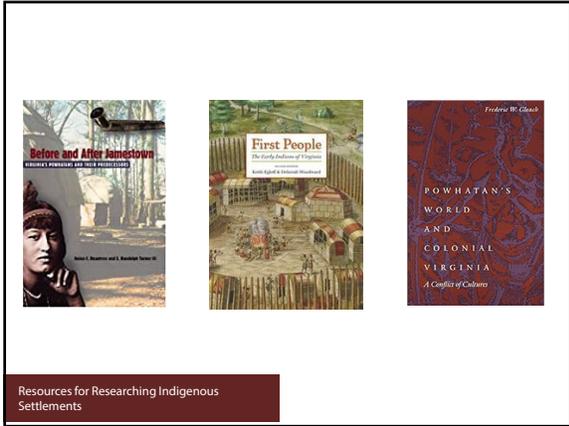
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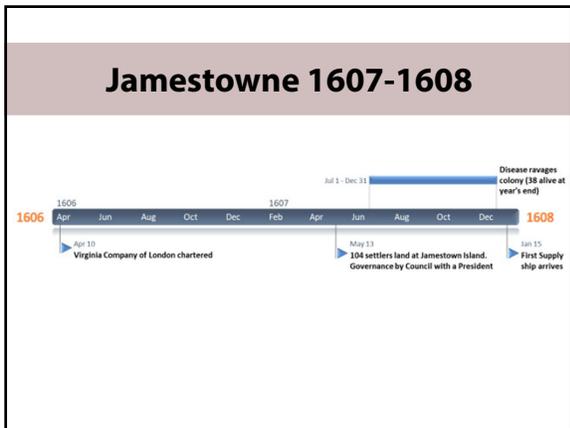
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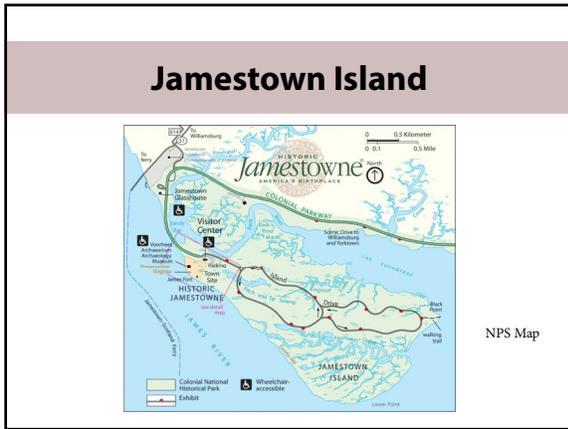
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**Early Jamestown**

- Goal:
  - Identify profitable raw materials such as gold and silver in Virginia to repay the investors back in England.
  - Counter the Spanish Catholic presence with a Protestant presence
- 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

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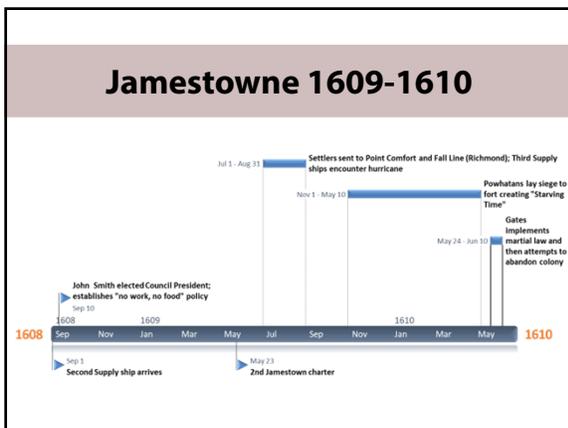
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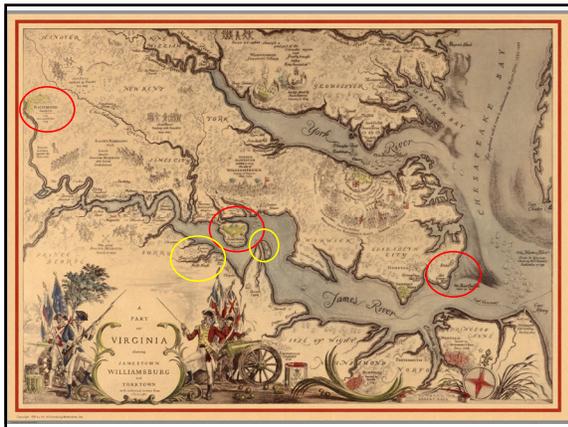
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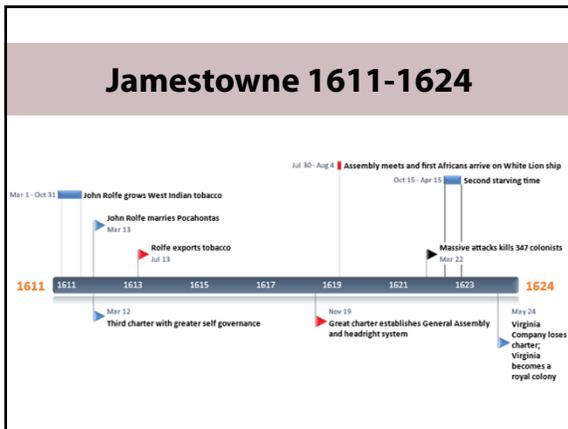
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### John Rolfe's Tobacco

- Planted West Indian seeds to grow a milder tobacco - *Nicotiana tabacum*
- 1613 first trial export to England
- 20,000 pounds by 1617
- 40,000 pounds by 1618



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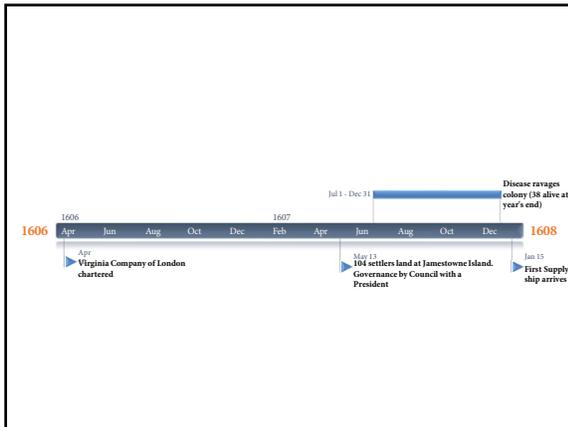
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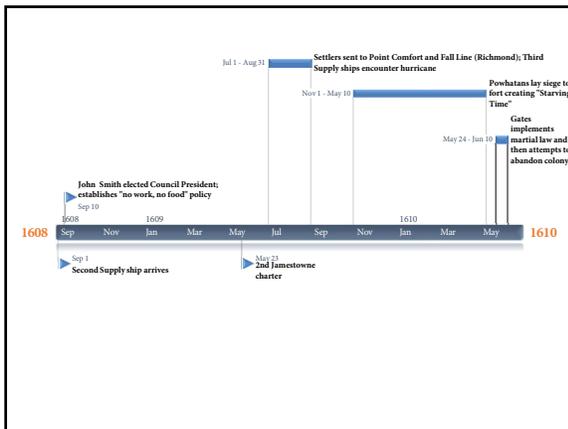
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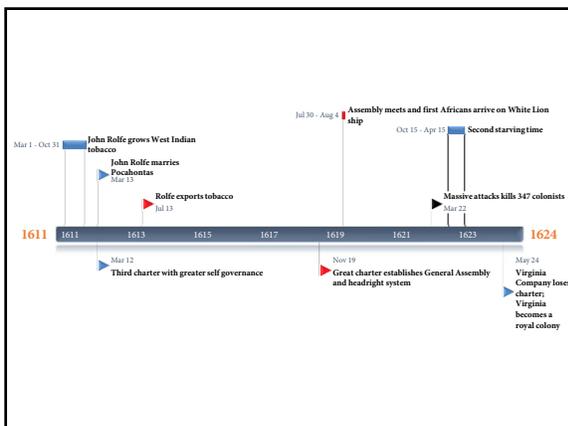
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### Tobacco and Need for Workers

- 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

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### Headright System

John Padey, Anth. Moore, John Peace, Tho. Hadway, Joseph Lucas, Rich. Keyes, Mary Guny, Tho. Reekes, Wm. Mills, Tho. Shore. Renewed 16 Mar. 1662.

WM. HAY, gent., 250 acs. Yorke Co., 1 Sept. 1638, p. 186, (275). Wly. on land of John Hayward & the southern bounds running by a splash 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

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### General Assembly

- Established 30 July 1619 by Governor George Yeardley at Jamestowne
  - Two burgesses per settlement
  - 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 Jamestowne until 1700 when meetings moved to Williamsburg
- 1643 – split by Gov Berkeley into a House of Burgesses (elected) and Governor’s Council (appointed)

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**First Africans**



National Park Service: painting by Sydney King

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**Virginia Company  
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

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**1624 – Virginia  
Company of London  
Fails**

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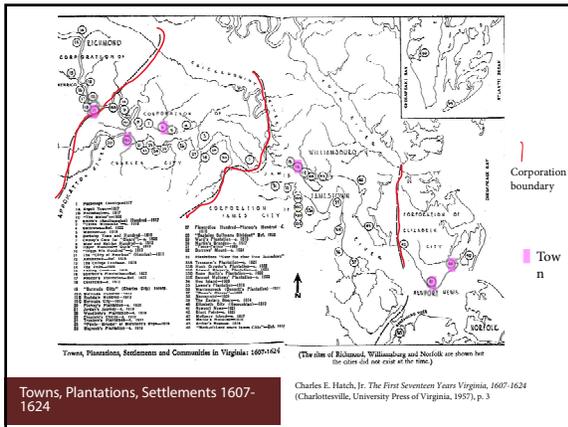
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### 1634

#### 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
Warroquoake Shire	Isle of Wight

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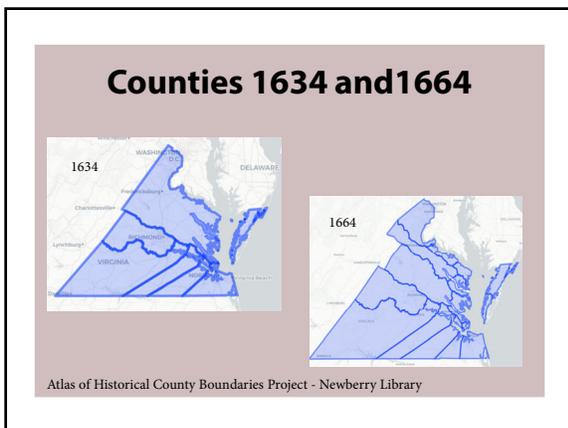
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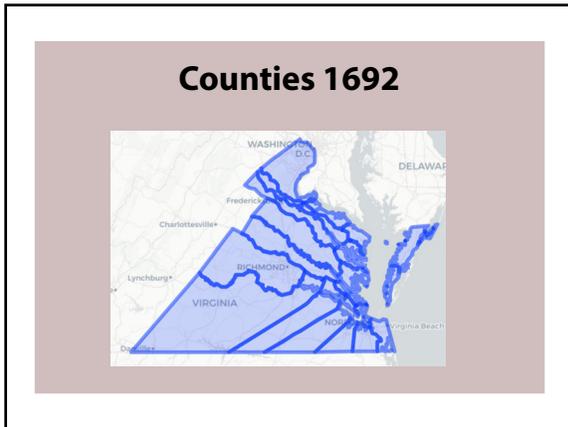
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### Virginia Counties by 1700

County	Est	County	Est
Accomack	1633	Northumberland	1648
Charles City	1634	Gloucester	1651
Elizabeth City	1634	Lancaster	1651
Henrico	1634	Surrey	1652
Isle of Wight	1634	Westmoreland	1653
James City	1634	New Kent	1654
Northampton	1634	Stafford	1664
Nansemond	1637	Middlesex	1674
Upper Norfolk	1637	King and Queen	1691
York	1643	Princess Anne	1691
Lower Norfolk	1647	Essex	1692
		Richmond	1692

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- ### Colonial Virginia Government
- General Assembly (1619) split in 1634
    - House of Burgesses (elected)
    - Governor’s Council (appointed)
  - 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

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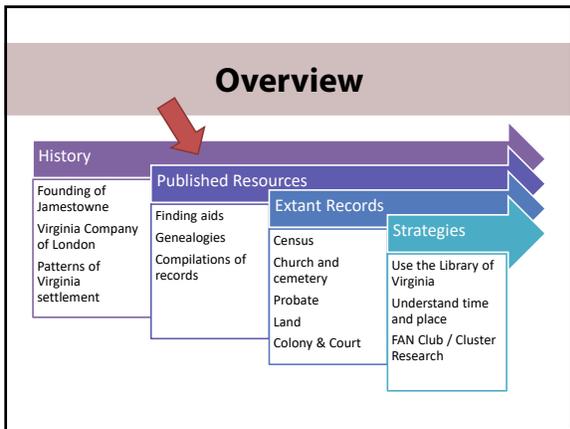
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**Know Your Ancestor's Location or Role**

- Owned land on or lived on Jamestown Island or lived on the Island prior to 1700
- Resident in Virginia at the time of the [1624/25 Muster](#) or earlier
- Virginia Company of London
  - Stockholder
  - Member of investing Guild
- Government Officer
  - Governor, Secretary of State, Treasurer, Attorney General, Clerk of the General Court, Member of the Council or House of Burgesses
- Anglican Minister in Virginia prior to 1700
- Official Indian Interpreter in Virginia prior to 1700.

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**Why Use a Finding Aid?**

- Gives you clues about whether your ancestor's surname appears in published material
- Points you in the direction of other potential documents

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**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*

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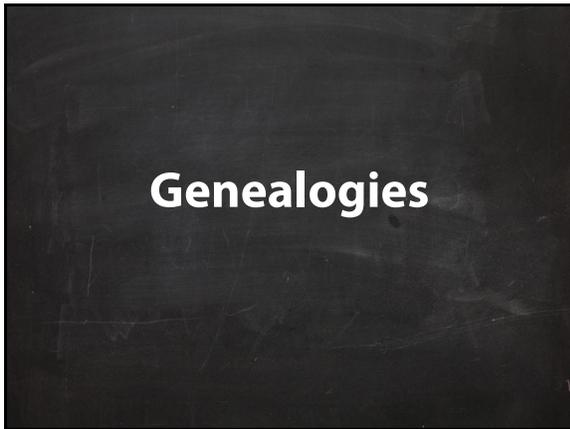
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**Why use published genealogies?**

- Very helpful for 17<sup>th</sup> 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

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**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*
- McCartney's *Virginia Immigrants and Adventurers 1607-1635*

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## Virginia Immigrants and Adventurers 1607-1635

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



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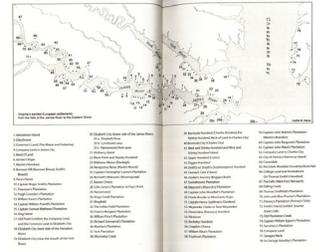
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**Example pages**

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# Record Compilations

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**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)

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**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>

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The screenshot shows the Library of Virginia website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with '200 LIBRARY OF VIRGINIA 1823-2023' and various menu items like 'SEARCH', 'BROWSE', 'CATALOG USER GUIDE', 'DIGITAL COLLECTIONS', and 'DISCOVERY'. Below the navigation bar is a search bar containing the text 'Rice' and a dropdown menu set to 'Everything'. Below the search bar, there is a yellow banner with 'Sign in to request items' and 'Sign in' and 'DISMISS' buttons. The main content area shows search results for 'Rice'. On the left, there is a sidebar with 'Refine your results' and 'Sort by Relevance'. Below this, there are sections for 'New Records' (with a red arrow pointing to it), 'New From Last 3 Months', 'New From Last Week', and 'Collections'. The main results area shows two 'INDEX ENTRY' items for 'Rice' from the 'Death Records Indexing Project, Virginia Genealogical Society'. The first entry is dated 1877 and the second is dated 1823. A red circle highlights the text '1,218 Results' in the top right of the results area.

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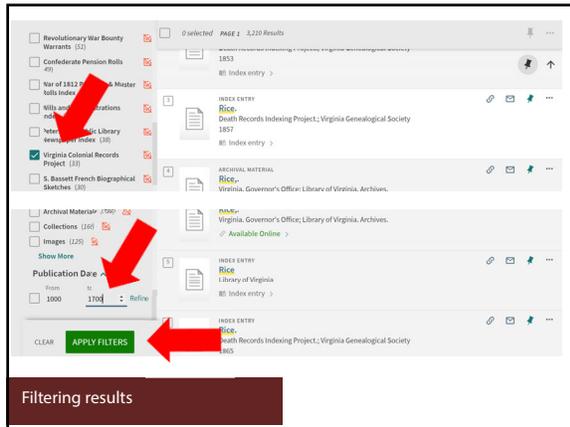
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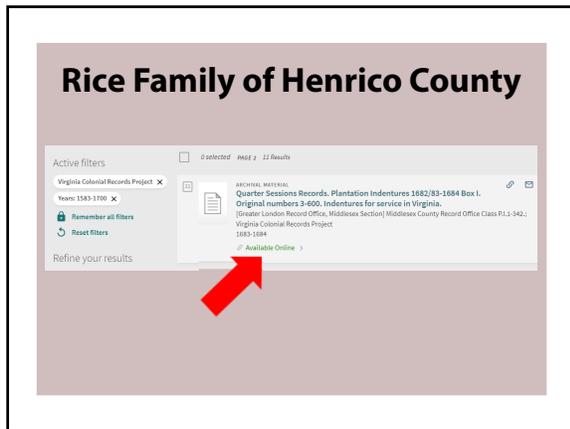
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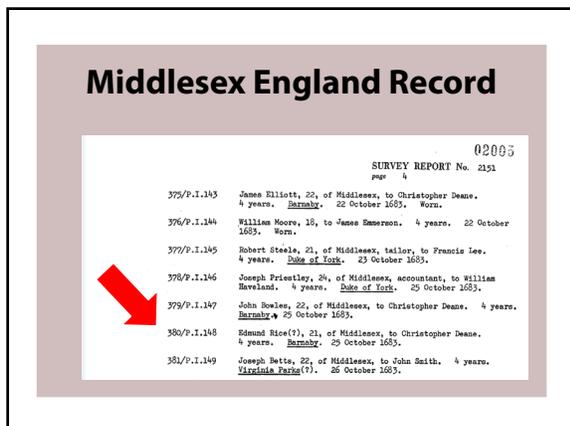
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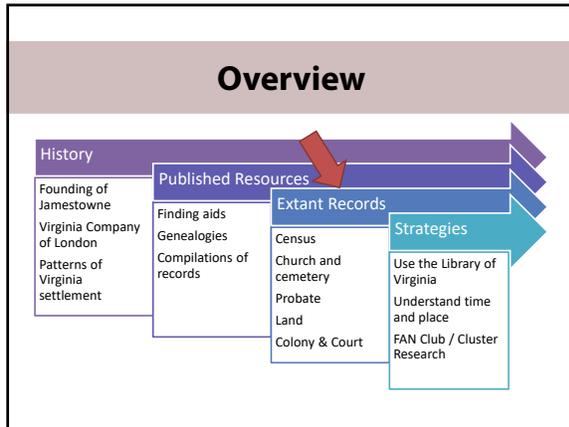
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**Early Virginia Records**

- 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

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**Record Challenges**

- Loss – fire, water, mold, war
- Jurisdictional changes – check your maps!
  - Newberry 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

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### 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

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

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### 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)

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### 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]. (Winfree, 2-3)

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### Record Loss in Early Counties

County	Est	Record Loss	County	Est	Record Loss
Accomack	1633	No fires, but water and pest	Nansemond	1637	1734, 1779 and 1866
Charles City	1634	1861-1865	New Kent	1654	1787 Fire destroyed most colonial records
Elizabeth City	1634	1812, 1861-1865	Upper and Lower Norfolk	1647	Extinct Counties
Essex	1692	None known	Northampton	1634	None known
Gloucester	1651	Fires 1820 and 1865	Northumberland	1648	Some records lost in fire 1710
Henrico	1634	Almost all prior to 1677 missing	Princess Anne	1691	Courthouse in Virginia Beach
Isle of Wight	1634	Loose papers prior to 1783	Richmond	1692	Many lost records for "unknown reasons"
James City	1634	1865 fire	Stafford	1664	1861-1865
King and Queen	1691	1828, 1833, 1864 fires	Surrey	1652	Most loose papers prior to 1806
Lancaster	1651	None known	Westmoreland	1653	Wills from 1600, also loose papers burned in Rev War
Middlesex	1674	Loose papers lost in 1865	York	1643	War

Information from FamilySearch.org Research Wikis

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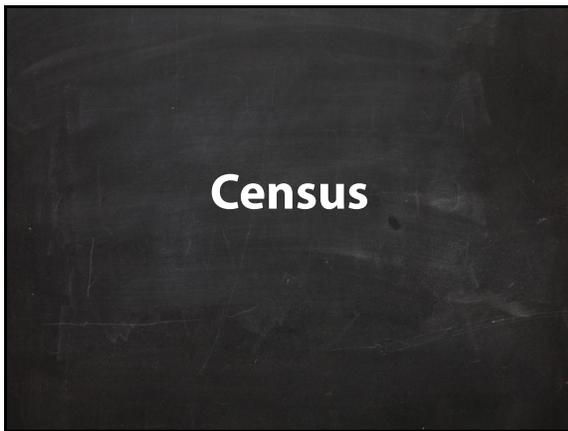
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### Census of 1619

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

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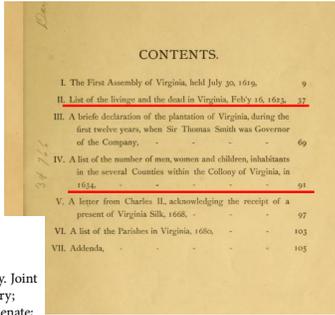
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Colonial Records of Virginia by Virginia. General Assembly. Joint Committee on the State Library; Virginia. General Assembly. Senate; Wynne, Thomas Hicks, d. 1875

Colonial Records – Archive.org

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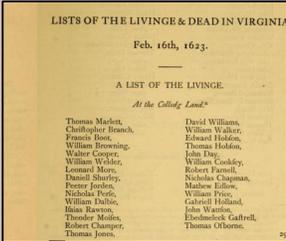
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### Colonial Records – 1623/4 Living and Dead



LISTS OF THE LIVING & DEAD IN VIRGINIA  
Feb. 16th, 1623.  
—  
A LIST OF THE LIVING.  
*At the Colledge Land.\**

Thomas Malett,	David Williams,
Christopher Innesch,	William Walker,
Francis Boke,	Edward Hobson,
William Brewsing,	Thomas Holden,
Walter Cooper,	John Day,
William Wylder,	William Lockley,
Leonard More,	Robert Farnell,
Daniel Shirley,	Nicholas Chapman,
Peter Jorles,	Mathew Eilow,
Nicholas Pene,	William Price,
William Dalbie,	Cobstrell Holland,
Bliss Ravens,	John Watfous,
Thosder Moles,	Edmondock Gathrell,
Robert Champer,	Thomas Othorn,
Thomas Jones,	

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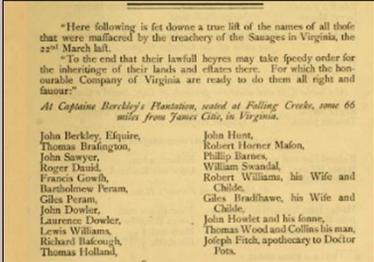
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### Victims of the 1622 massacre



"Here following is fet downe a true list of the names of all those that were maffred by the treachery of the Saunges in Virginia, the 22<sup>nd</sup> March last.

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

*At Captaine Berkeley's Plantation, seated at Falling Creeke, some 66 miles from James Cittie, in Virginia.*

John Berkley, Esquire,	John Hunt,
Thomas Bratington,	Robert Hooper Maion,
John Saussyer,	Phillip Barnes,
Roger David,	William Swandal,
Francis Gowth,	Robert Williams, his Wife and Child,
Bartholomew Peram,	Giles Bradshawe, his Wife and Child,
Giles Peram,	John Howlet and his femme,
John Dowler,	Thomas Wood and Collins his man,
Laurence Dowler,	Joseph Fitch, apothecary to Doctor Potts,
Lewis Williams,	
Richard Blacough,	
Thomas Holland,	

Colonial Records of Virginia: <https://archive.org/details/colonialrecords00virg/page/104/mode/2up>

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## 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

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### 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	Eastern shore over the Bay	Elizabeth City	26	Sampson	1618	7 February 1624 <sup>5</sup>	
John Smith	Martin, John Carr	not given	beyond Hampton River Roanoke Colonization Land	Elizabeth City	31	Swan	1624	7 February 1624 <sup>5</sup>	
Christopher Smith	Godby, Thomas	not given	Elizabeth City	Elizabeth City	23	Returne	1624	7 February 1624 <sup>5</sup>	
William Smith	Peale, Lawrence	not given	Elizabeth City	Elizabeth City	30	Jacob	1624	7 February 1624 <sup>5</sup>	
William Smith	Gookings Dumast, Mr	servant	Newportes newes	Elizabeth City	23	Elysse Hart	1621	7 February 1624 <sup>5</sup>	
Robert Smith	Gookings Dumast, Mr	servant	Newportes newes	Elizabeth City	22		not given	7 February 1624 <sup>5</sup>	
Richard Smith	Adams Robert	servant	Martin Hundred	James City	24	George	1623	4 February 1624 <sup>5</sup>	
Nicholas Smith	Cromber, Hugh nr	servant	nr Crooked Point	James City	18	Bona Nova	1621	4 February 1624 <sup>5</sup>	"a boy"
John Smith	Smith, John	head	Neck-of-Land	near James City		Bonaventure	not given	4 February 1624 <sup>5</sup>	

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

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Census of 1634 – Summary Only

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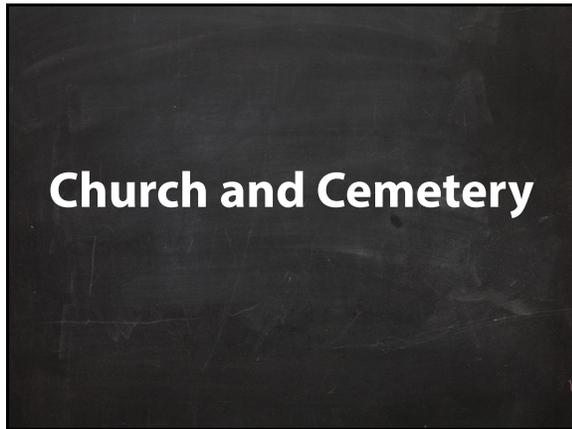
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**17<sup>th</sup> Century Church Records**

- 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)

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**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

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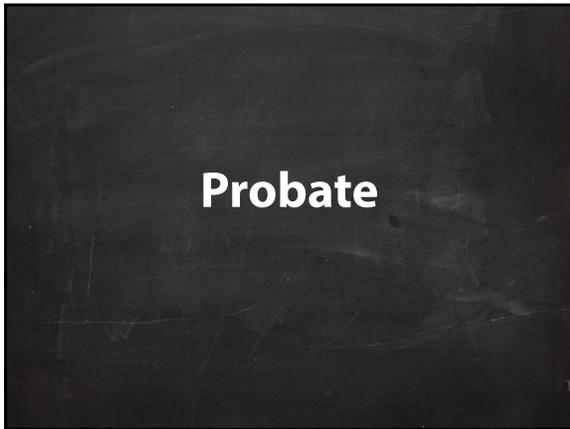
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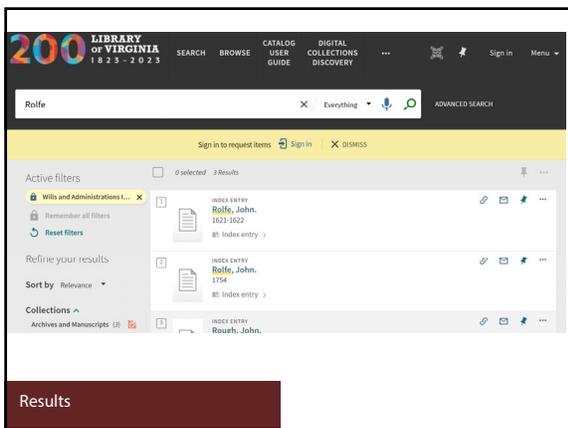
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### Why Use Land Records

- 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

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### 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

CHAPTER THREE

*The Original Differences and Ultimate Accord Between the Land Patents and the Northern Neck Grant.*

**N**o matter what the records of Virginia have told us, it is not until we turn to the public change of land records with regard to the Northern Neck grant, that after the close of the seventeenth century. About 1700 the proprietors of that territory had secured patents from the Commonwealth under Virginia laws and had vigorously pursued the claims of the proprietary proprietors, and their successors, in the possession of territory from the 1660's and 1670's to the 1680's. The result is that the records of all land grants in the Northern Neck in the 1680's and 1690's were chiefly between the proprietors and the Commonwealth.

Virginia Land Grants

A Study of Community in Relation to Colonial Policy

BRUCE, GUY, 1919

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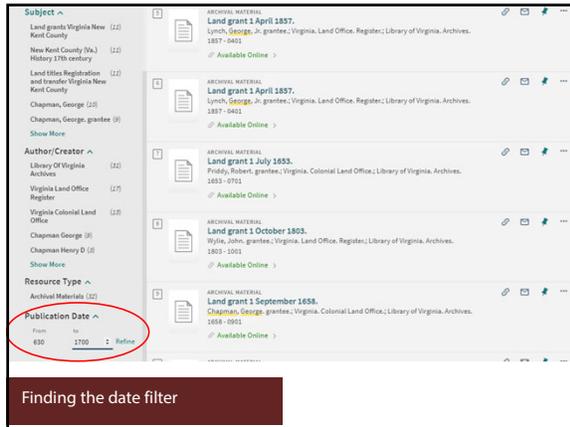
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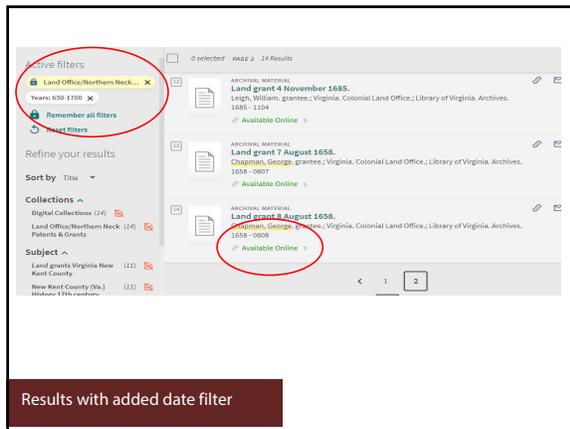
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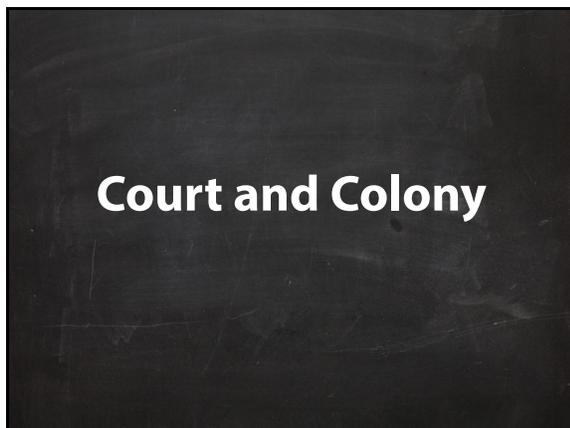
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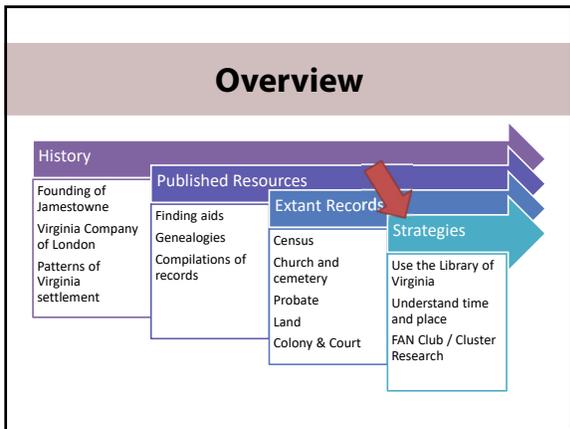
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**Use the Library of Virginia**

- “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

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1607-1680	<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"> <li>• Searchable Online Database</li> <li>• Cavaliers and Pioneers, F225 N842 1992</li> <li>• Virginia Northern Neck Land Grants, F232 N86 G72 1987</li> </ul> <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>

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**LIBRARY OF VIRGINIA**

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 titheable records, the collection generally begins in 1762 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 undecoded and contain the names and/or numbers of taxable persons. An in-house guide to titheable records is available. Research reports for Sale Act 1767 were published in *South Carolina-Virginia and Elsewhere's 1767 Purchase*.

**Genealogical Records at LVA**

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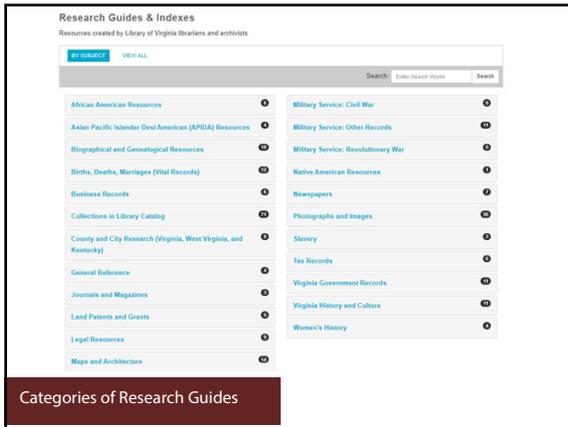
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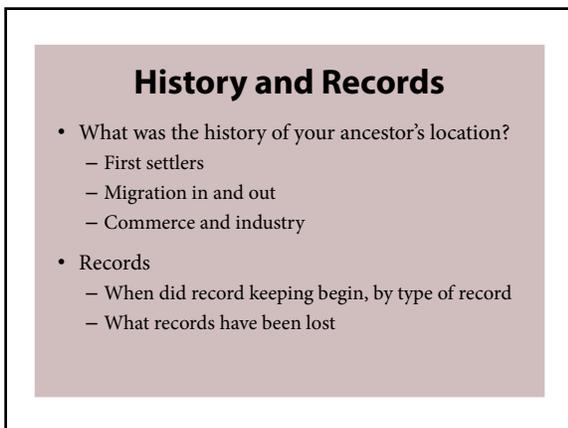
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## Record Loss Strategies

- 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.

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### 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.

**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 2 April 1865, where they had been moved for safekeeping during the Civil War.

[Close](#)

https://www.virginiamemory.com/collections/collections\_a\_to\_z

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**Detail view** [Table view](#) [Full view](#) Sort by Title

Title	pdf	Call Number	Creator	Subject	Date Issued	Parent
21 Foster, James vs. John Green: Judgment		9590				
22 Goldwell, Nicholas: Will		9582				
23 Gray, William to Andrew of William Chamberlain (Chamberlaine): Marriage Record		9602				
24 Harrison, C. L.: Plat		9603				
25 Harrison, C. L.: Plat		9603				
26 Hutton, William & wife Frances to Isaac Perkins: Deed		9674				
27 Jordan, Samuel: Will		9679				
28 Land Tax Books (1670-83)		9678				
29 Lewis, Sarah: Free Negro Registration		9601 120596				
30 Littlepage, Frances vs. Stephen Crum: Judgment		9678				
31 Mason, Gideon: Will		9676				
32 Mason, Sarah: Will		9624				
33 Maximo, William: Will		9618				
34 Meredith, Samuel: Will		9620				
35 Parrish, Charles: Will		9628				
36 Perkins, Robert and Pleasant Bradley: Survey		9617				
37 Perkins, Robert to Pleasant Bradley: Deed		9615				
38 Posey, John Price: Estate Accounts		9608				
39 Prewitt, William vs. Adm. of Charles Mason: Judgment		9673				
40 Rensdell, Thomas vs. William Smith: Judgment		9671				

Digital Lost Records Collection New Kent County

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**Connecting Ancestors**

- You may not find one “smoking-gun” record; you may need to build a case with multiple records
- Essential Strategy: Research the ancestor’s 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

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**And keep in mind . . .**

- Terms of kinship may have different meanings in 17<sup>th</sup>-century:
  - Nephews 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

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**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 17<sup>th</sup>-century Virginia records doesn't spell doom – try cluster research to circle around your ancestor

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**QUESTIONS?**

**Hire Research Services**  
*research@nehgs.org*

**Chat with a Genealogist**  
*AmericanAncestors.org/chat*

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**THANK YOU!**

*AmericanAncestors.org/Education*

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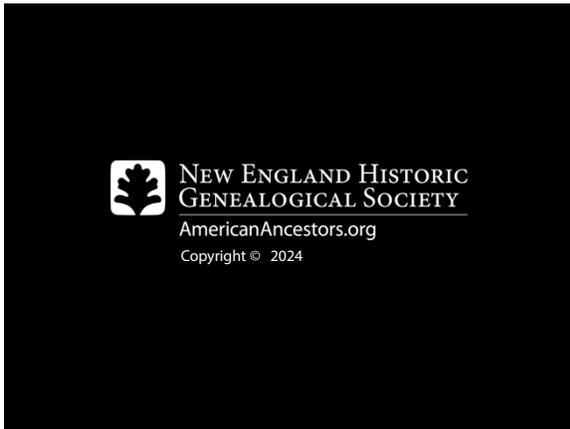
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