English Settlements in Virginia (1584-1699)

Virginia History Series
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Based on an Original Presentation by
The Roanoke Times
Lost Colony at Roanoke, Virginia

Sir Walter Raleigh (1552 or 1554 – 29 October 1618), a famed English writer, poet, courtier and explorer, put together several voyages of exploration to the New World. The first English colony in the new world was established by his men on 4 June 1584 at Roanoke Island in old Virginia (now in North Carolina).

John White was there painting watercolors of Indians and their environs in 1585 and returned in 1590 to find all the settlers had disappeared -- henceforth, that settlement was known as the “Lost Colony”.
Roanoke Indians (John White)

Towne of Secoton
Jamestown

[The 1st Permanent English Colony in America]

In May 1607, three ships from England brought 144 people to the shore of the New World. After having left their homeland in December 1606, the weary travelers found themselves in a wild, beautiful, and foreign land.

There were many things they did not understand about this new land, including the environment and the native people who lived there. Of the original group, 104 English citizens – 100 men and 4 boys – remained, while the others sailed back to England. Those who stayed established Jamestown, named after King James I. It was the first permanent English colony in America.
Jamestown (Cont.)

This world-changing journey began as a business venture. In June 1606, King James I of England granted a charter, or special permission, to a group of entrepreneurs called the Virginia Company, to build an English settlement in the Chesapeake region of North America. They were expected to find silver, gold and a water route to the Orient for trade once they arrived in the New World.

In December of that year, Captain Christopher Newport acted as fleet admiral, and led the Susan Constant, the Godspeed, and the Discovery out of England. On May 13, 1607, after many long, stormy, and difficult weeks, they sighted land and sailed down what would be called the James River. They spent the night on their ships, and on May 14 they went ashore.
Jamestown Landing

May 14, 1607
The Virginia Company Charter

“In all your passages you must have great care not to offend the naturals. . . .” -- The Virginia Company Charter of 1606
A drawing of James Fort (c.1609) by Pedro de Zuniga, a Spanish ambassador. The sketch shows a flag-like projection which is more probably an enclosed garden. The three sides and circular bastions at the corners are common to all three descriptions of the early fort. (Source: APVA)

The James River channel was so deep that the ships were moored close to the land – so close they were tied to the trees! This deep channel allowed easy access back and forth between ships and land. The location of Jamestown Island also was protected from open water. This was important because Spain, England’s enemy, had ships sailing the coast that would fire upon the English colony if they found it. There also was the threat of pirates, which made the protected location even more valuable.
Immediately, the colonists began clearing the waterfront site to build **James Fort**. They soon discovered, however, that the many gentlemen among them were unprepared for life in the wilderness.

The artisans, craftsmen, and laborers were able to settle the land more easily. It took the strong leadership of John Smith to organize the colonists and help them finish the fort – which protected them and helped them survive.
James Fort Today

You can see re-created versions of James Fort today at both Historic Jamestowne and Jamestown Settlement.

The simple fort palisade at Historic Jamestowne (right) sits on the original site and includes an archaeological dig area.

The fort at Jamestown Settlement, (left) with complete buildings, is a reconstruction of how the colony looked in the early years, about 1615.
Who Were They?

Original Settlers, Jamestown 1607

**Council**
Master Edward Maria Wingfield*
Captain Bartholomew Gosnald
Captain John Smith *
Captain John Ratliffe
Captain John Martin
Captain George Kendall

**Preacher:** Master Robert Hunt

**Gentlemen**
Master George Percy
Anthony Gosnoll
Captain Gabriel Archer
Robert Ford
William Bruster
Dru Pickhouse
John Brookes
Thomas Sands
John Robinson
Ustis Clovill
Kellam Throgmorton
Nathaniell Powell
Robert Behethland

*Biographical information follows in this document*
Jeremy Alicock
Thomas Studley
Richard Crofts
Nicholas Houlgrave
Thomas Webbe
John Waler
William Tanker
Francis Snarsbrough
Edward Brookes
Richard Dixon
John Martin
George Martin
Anthony Gosnold
Thomas Gore
Francis Midwinter

**Carpenters:** William Laxon, Edward Pising, Thomas Emry, Robert Small, Anas Todkill, John Capper

**Blacksmith:** James Read

**Sailer:** Jonas Profit

**Barber:** Thomas Couper

**Bricklayers:** John Herd, William Garret

**Mason:** Edward Brinton
Tailor: William Love

Drum: Nicholas Skot

Laborers
John Laydon
William Cassen
George Cassen
Thomas Cassen
William Rods
William White
Ould Edward
Henry Tavin
George Golding
John Dods
William Johnson
William Unger

Surgeons: William Wickinson, Thomas Wotton

Boys*: Samuel Collier, Nathaniel Peacock,
James Brumfield, Richard Mutton

. . . And several others
(two were 144 people who arrived, including
mariners; 104 people remained at the settlement
after the ships returned to England)

*Biographical information follows in this
program

John Smith Rebuking His Men For Their Failings Including Their Failure to Work - -
“no work, no food” he said.
First Representative Assembly in America

Sir George Yeardley returned to Jamestown in 1619 as the Governor and, soon thereafter, called for the selection of two representatives from each of the eleven major settlement areas. It is not known how the representatives to the first General Assembly were selected. However, it appears that, for most of the century, all free males could vote. This did not include indentured servants. By the late 1670s voting was specifically restricted to property owners. The office of “burgess”, a representative of the people, was the only elected position in Virginia – council members and county judges were appointed.

The 1619 Assembly was comprised of the two representatives from each of the eleven areas, known as burgesses, sitting with the governor and his appointed council. The burgesses would not meet as a separate body until the 1640s. They always had to meet with the governor and his Council of State, and the governor could veto legislation or dissolve the Assembly at any time.
First Thanksgiving in America Celebrated at Berkeley Plantation (12/4/1619)

English colonists first held a thanksgiving celebration in Virginia, one year and 17 days prior to the landing of the Pilgrims in Massachusetts! **They Gave Thanks for Their Safe Arrival in the New World**

Captain John Woodlief led the newly-arrived English colonists to a grassy slope along the James River and instructed them to drop to their knees and pray in thanks for a safe arrival to the New World. It was December 4, 1619, and 38 men from Berkeley Parish in England vowed:

"Wee ordaine that the day of our ships arrivall at the place assigned for plantacon in the land of Virginia shall be yearly and perpetually keeped holy as a day of Thanksgiving to Almighty God."
Captain John Smith is one of the best known original settlers of Jamestown. A small man with a big personality, Smith, a commoner, became known for his strong opinions, and he voiced them freely. This was considered bad behavior by the gentlemen of the group, who saw Smith as a troublemaker. But whatever people thought of John Smith, he clearly was a good leader. His famous “no food without work” rule saved the colony from ruin. John Smith was elected president of the council in 1608. His strong leadership saved the colony, especially during its hardest times. Unlike the other colonists, Smith earned the friendship and respect of Chief Powhatan and his people. Because of this, Smith was able to trade with them to get food for the colony. This friendship and respect helped keep the colony alive during its hardest times.

Smith is also known for his friendship with Pocahontas, the favorite daughter of Chief Powhatan. In popular literature their relationship has been portrayed as romantic, but most historians say this is unlikely. After all, when they met, Smith was a grown man and Pocahontas was only 11 or 12. Still, Pocahontas was a peace-loving girl who wanted her people and the newcomers to get along. She brought corn to the settlers, and her friendship with Smith likely helped keep peace between the two groups in the early months of the colony.

Many historians also are not sure whether Pocahontas actually saved John Smith’s life, as he told it, during a ceremony. But she definitely may have influenced her father on Smith’s behalf.
Pocahontas
(in English Attire)
Pocahontas [1595-1617]

Pocahontas was an Indian princess, the daughter of Chief Powhatan, the powerful leader of the Algonquian Indians in the Tidewater region. She was born around 1595. She was named Matoaka, though she is better known as Pocahontas, which means a playful, frolicsome little girl.

Pocahontas probably saw white men for the first time in May 1607 when Englishmen landed at Jamestown. The one she found most likable was Captain John Smith. The two became friends – but not likely sweethearts, as has been suggested by some.

John Smith’s famous story about Pocahontas comes from his capture by Indians when he led an expedition in December 1607. He was brought to Chief Powhatan, and at first welcomed by the great chief and offered a feast. Then he was grabbed and forced to stretch out on two large, flat stones. Indians stood over him with clubs as though ready to beat him to death if ordered. Suddenly a little Indian girl, Pocahontas, rushed in and took Smith's "head in her arms and laid her owne upon his to save him from death.” Pocahontas then pulled him to his feet. Powhatan said that they were now friends, and he adopted Smith as his son, or a minor chief. Actually, this ceremony was traditional with the Indians, and if Smith's story is true, Pocahontas' actions were probably part of a ritual. As a result, Pocahontas and Smith soon became friends.
Relations with the Indians continued to be mostly friendly for the next year, and Pocahontas was a frequent visitor to Jamestown. She delivered messages from her father and accompanied Indians bringing food and furs to trade for hatchets and trinkets. She was a lively young girl, and when the young boys of the colony turned cartwheels, she did them too.

She liked John Smith and talked with him during her visits. Unfortunately, relations with the Powhatans got worse. After a while, Pocahontas visited the fort less. In October 1609, John Smith was injured by a gunpowder explosion and was forced to return to England. When Pocahontas next came to visit the fort, she was told that her friend Smith was dead.

Pocahontas apparently married an Indian named Kocoum in 1610 and lived quietly among her people for several years. Then one English settler kidnapped her and asked Powhatan for the return of some English prisoners and some stolen weapons, and some corn. Powhatan sent only part of the ransom and asked that they treat his daughter well. So Pocahontas went to live with the English in April 1613 and met a tobacco planter named John Rolfe. Pocahontas began to enjoy her new life, and fell in love with John Rolfe, who wanted to marry her. Chief Powhatan agreed to this. Pocahontas was baptized as a Christian, renamed “Rebecca,” and married Rolfe on April 5, 1614. A spirit of goodwill between the English and the Indians resulted from this marriage.
In 1616 Pocahontas was invited to sail to England with the Virginia Company. John Rolfe and Pocahontas’ young son, Thomas (right), went along. Pocahontas’ arrival in London was a big event, and she got to meet King James I. Also in London was Captain John Smith, the old friend whom she thought was dead. They met and talked of old times. This was the last time they saw each other.

In March 1617 the Rolfes set sail for home. But Pocahontas was deathly ill from pneumonia or tuberculosis. She was taken ashore, and, as she lay dying, she comforted her husband, saying, “all must die. ’Tis enough that the child liveth.” She was buried in Gravesend, England. She was 22.

Pocahontas played a big role in American history. A compassionate little girl, she saw to it that the colonists received food from her people, so that Jamestown would not die. In 1616 John Smith wrote that Pocahontas was “the instrument to pursurve this colonie from death, famine, and utter confusion.” Then, as an adult, Pocahontas served as a representative of the Virginia Indians, and as a vital link between the native Americans and the Englishmen, and was beloved by both.
Chief Powhatan

Powhatan Village up the *James* River just below the “falls” at Richmond
Chief Powhatan was the supreme ruler of most of the indigenous tribes in the Chesapeake Bay area from north of the Mattaponi River, a tributary of the York River, to the lands south of the James River. Chief Powhatan was the highest authority the colonists faced when dealing with the tribe. Both colonists and native peoples alike respected him.

But as powerful as he was, he did listen to the opinions of one small person: his favorite, and youngest, daughter, Pocahontas (Matoaka, or “playful one”). Even though he did not agree with the English taking over his people’s land, Powhatan tried to maintain peace with the settlers, thinking it was the best thing to do. He died in April 1618, and after his death, relations between the two groups worsened.
Christopher Newport
Captain Christopher Newport was an experienced seaman whose reputation as a leader caught the attention of the Virginia Company. He was hired to be the admiral of the fleet of three ships – the Godspeed, Discovery, and Susan Constant -- that set sail from London for the New World on December 19, 1606.

In June 1607, Captain Newport returned to England for supplies and more settlers. He left behind 104 colonists, 100 men and 4 boys. When he returned to Jamestown the next year, most of the settlers had died from starvation, Indian attacks, or disease. Because John Smith was away exploring when his men were attacked by Indians, he was nearly executed by his own people. It is said that Newport stepped in and prevented Smith’s death.
Edward Maria Wingfield
Edward-Maria Wingfield was a wealthy member of the Virginia Company and became the colony’s first president. But his time in Virginia was troubled. The other colonists, especially John Smith, were unhappy with his leadership, and he stayed in the colony less than a year. Wingfield chose the Jamestown site for its safe location but he did not realize the water supply would be bad and the area hard to live in.

When the food supply became a problem, he used strict control and rationing of food. The colonists disliked this because they thought he was unfair in how he divided the food among them. Finally the council removed Wingfield from office. They also tried and even jailed him for a short time. He eventually returned to England, and died in 1619.

While most historians agree that Wingfield deserves credit for getting the colony up and running, he also is to blame for the poor management that led to food shortages and the deaths of many colonists.
John Rolfe

(Pictured with Pocahontas, painting ca. 1850)
John Rolfe was a farmer in the Jamestown settlement whose crops of tobacco became the economic basis for the colony. Rolfe experimented with crossing native plants and imported plants to make a tobacco that would grow in Virginia soil and which people thought had a pleasant taste.

It is said that when the English cargo vessel Elizabeth sailed from Virginia on June 28, 1613, it carried Rolfe’s first tobacco crop for export. With that shipment, the colony finally had a way to make money.

In April of the following year, John Rolfe married Pocahontas in Jamestown’s church. In 1615 they had a son, Thomas Rolfe, who went to England with his parents when they were invited to meet the royal court. John Rolfe died early in 1622, five years after Pocahontas’ death in England in 1617. He was survived by his young son.
Women in Early Virginia

Temperance Flowerdew arrived in Virginia in 1609, survived the “Starving Time”, and in 1613 married Captain George Yeardley who was knighted in 1618 and later was appointed Governor of Virginia. As his wife, she attained the rank of “Lady Yeardley”.

Hannah Bennett Turner Tompkins Arnold was her parents only child and as such she inherited 450 acres of land upon their death. She married three times (i.e., to Turner, then Tompkins, then Arnold), outlived each husband, and inherited their property. By accumulating land from her father and three husbands, her wealth and influence in the community grew as she used various legal strategies and the help of her first husband to maintain control of her property.
Opechancanough (Brother of Chief Powhatan)

Leading Warriors in Major Uprisings Against Settlers
(in 1622 & again in 1644)
Opechancanough (1546?-1646)

Opechancanough (or Opchanacanough) was a chief of the Powhatan Confederacy in what is now Virginia. He became a chief after the death of his older brother, Powhatan, or Wahunsonaccock.

Unlike his brother, he gave up on peaceful relations and diplomacy with the English settlers at Jamestown. The Indian massacre of 1622 was the first evidence that he wanted them out. He tried to force them to abandon the region both in 1622 and again in 1644.

The forces of William Berkeley, governor of Virginia, captured him in 1646, when he was believed to be about 100 years old. He was killed by a soldier assigned to guard him.
Four boys came to Jamestown with the original group of settlers: Samuel Collier, Nathaniel Peacock, James Brumfield, and Richard Mutton. Very little is known about these boys, other than the fact that they were indentured servants. It was common practice at the time for poor families to send their children to work as servants for wealthier families. In the cases of these boys, it may have been likely that they planned to return to England after their service (typically seven years) was over. Or their families may have planned to join them in America later.

Historians know the most about Samuel Collier. He survived the Starving Time and stayed in Jamestown after John Smith returned to England. Sam remained in the colony, became a planter, and lived there until his death during the winter of 1622-23.

James Brumfield was most likely the boy killed during the attack of the Paspahegh Indians in late May 1607, only a few weeks after the settlers’ arrival.

The lives of these boys must have been very hard, like the lives of the grown men, and they had a lot of work to do. Still, we do know that there was some fun: they played games and sang songs, and when Pocahontas visited James Fort she turned cartwheels with the boys!
What Were They Looking For?

The Virginia Company of London sent the three ships to the New World with the order to find **silver**, **gold** and a **trade route to the Orient**. All were intended to provide income for England.

They did not find these resources, but they found other important things: raw materials, such as lumber, were shipped back to England, and in 1608 the first glass was made at Jamestown and sent back. They also eventually found two very valuable plants...
What else did they find?

The colonists did not find the silver & gold they were looking for. They did find other things, though, such as sassafras (left), which was highly valued as a medicine. It was so popular that John Smith wrote with disgust that, instead of letting the sassafras trees mature, some colonists dug up the roots and sent them back to England for money.

In 1619, John Rolfe (future husband of Pocahontas) introduced the colony’s first tobacco (right). This proved to be a success, and brought in much-needed money for the colony. Historians have said that it is ironic that the “golden” crop that brought a profit to hungry Jamestown was something the colonists couldn’t even eat!
Tobacco Farming (A Backbreaking, Labor Intensive Industry)
Laborers in Early Virginia

Indentured Servants

Growing tobacco required a large amount of land and a considerable labor force. In 1607, everyone, including gentlemen, came to Virginia as a “servant” since there was no private ownership of land or supplies. After 1609, a 7-year term was placed on service in exchange for a share in the Company profits and some land. In 1616, there weren’t any profits; but investors (i.e., laborers) each got 100 acres after a 7-year term of service (i.e., an “indenture”).

At least half of the European immigrants between 1620 and 1680 arrived as indentured servants for 4 or 7-year terms. As the best lands were taken, poor free men were forced to move to Virginia’s western frontier (e.g., on the James river above the fall line at Richmond) where they clashed with Indian groups. This growing class of landless, free men weren’t allowed to vote or hold government office. This lead to unrest and to Bacon’s Rebellion of 1676.
The first African slaves in Virginia arrived aboard two privateering vessels that took them off a Portuguese ship in the Caribbean. They were originally taken as slaves by the Portuguese from Angola and were enroute to Spanish colonies in Central & South America.

After the Indian uprisings against the settlers in 1622 & 1644, fewer European immigrants came to Virginia and the demand for laborers led planters to import Africans for work in their tobacco fields.

In 1672, the Royal African Company was chartered by the English government to bring slaves to Virginia. The Company took English manufactured goods to West Africa, sold them for gold, ivory and slaves, brought the slaves to Virginia and took tobacco in trade with them back to England (i.e., the Triangular Trade). By the 1680s, the Royal African Company was bringing several hundred slaves to Virginia each year.
The Triangular Trade

- Slaves to the Americas
- Sugar, tobacco, and cotton to Europe
- Textiles, rum and manufactured goods to Africa
What problems did they have?

Problems began to surface in Jamestown during the summer of 1607. There was a lack of cooperation among the colonists. Many of them were rich gentlemen, and were not used to hard work. They would not do the chores required to keep the colony going. Soon Jamestown ran low on supplies. Nearby American Indians sent gifts of food. But it was not enough to keep the colonists from going hungry.

Disease was another serious problem. Mosquitoes from nearby swamps carried malaria, a deadly disease. People also got sick from drinking bad water, because the water at Jamestown was contaminated. In May, when the colonists had arrived, the water was fresh because of the runoff from the spring snow melt. By summer, however, the water had become scummy and brackish and filled with bacteria that sickened them.

Because of malaria and water-borne illness, almost half of the colonists died by September. Those who survived wasted time arguing instead of getting ready for winter. This is when John Smith emerged as a leader. First, he organized the settlers and put them to work. There was very little food, and Smith told them they would not eat if they did not work. Then he set out to explore the area and to trade with the Powhatan for food. But the year’s corn harvest had been poor, and the Powhatan had little to trade. Still, Smith got enough food to keep the colonists from starving.
Glassmaking at Jamestown
Industry in the New World: Glassmaking

Glassmaking was one of the first industries in the New World. The Virginia Company of London had hoped that Jamestown would be profitable, and they thought making glass would be one way to make money. Glass was in great demand in Europe, but the factories there could not keep up with the supply. So, the Virginia Company thought the New World might provide some raw materials they needed.

The colony had plenty of the materials needed to make glass – wood for fuel and ash, and sand (or silica). They simply needed the people who knew how to do it. So, in 1608, the Virginia Company brought several German and Polish glass experts to Jamestown to set up a glassworks in the new colony.
Visitors to the **Glasshouse at Historic Jamestowne** today can see a glass operation much like the original one of 1608. Today’s glassblowers at the site make green glass objects just as the colonists did, although red, blue, and amber glass is made off-site. Also, the modern glasshouse uses a furnace powered by gas instead of wood.
What did they eat?

The animal bones from food supplies found in a pit dating prior to 1610 reveal that the 104 men and boys who lived at Jamestown survived primarily on fish -- and turtles!

“Tortoyses here (such as in the Bermudas) I have seene about the entrance of our bay, but we have not taken of them, but of the land tortoyses we take and eate dailie...”

William Strachey
What did they eat? (cont.)

Sturgeon (right) was the most common fish. A sturgeon may live up to 60 years, weigh up to 800 pounds and reach lengths of up to 15 feet. Archaeologists have found the bony plates which cover the heads of sturgeon and the bony shields, or scutes, which cover the body. The Jamestown colonists reported that the sturgeon were plentiful in the James River from May until September. John Smith wrote that they found:

“...fish lying so thicke with their heads above the water, as for want of nets (our barge driving amongst them) we attempted to catch them with a frying pan, but we found it a bad instrument to catch fish with...”  John Smith

John Smith Discovering a Sting-ray in the Bay
The colonists also ate rays, herons, gulls, oysters, raccoons, and other native Virginia animals, as well as provisions of beef, pork, and fish they brought with them from England.

Domestic animals brought by the first colonists were intended as breeding stock, but they were quickly eaten during the Starving Time (winter of 1609-1610). Other evidence of this terrible period of Jamestown’s history, when nearly half of the colonists died, has been found with the food remains. Elements of poisonous snakes, malodorous musk turtles, and horses – even leather from belts and shoes -- indicate the desperation to find food.

“Hogs, Hens, Goats, Sheepe, Horse . . . all was devoured . . . roots, herbes, acornes, walnuts, berries, now and then a little fish . . . yea, even the very skinnes of our horses”

– John Smith
Digging up the past: Archaeology at Jamestown

Archaeologists with The Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities (APVA) have been digging up the past at Jamestown for years. What have they found? A little of everything: building foundations, weapons, cooking utensils, pottery, jewelry, buckles, shoes, candlesticks, arrowheads, pipes, animal bones and fish scales from meals, even human skeletons. Many of these artifacts are on display at the archaeology museum at Historic Jamestowne.
Jamestown Timeline

1606

April: James I issues a charter to the Virginia Company for tract of land along the mid-Atlantic coast.

December 20: Admiral Christopher Newport leaves London with the Godspeed, Discovery, and Susan Constant bound for Virginia.

1607

May 13: 104 male settlers arrive at site they name James Cittie and establish the first permanent English settlement in the New World.

May 26: Paspahegh Indians attack the colonists, killing two and wounding ten.

June 15: James Fort is completed.

September 12: The Council finds President Edward M. Wingfield guilty of libel; John Ratcliffe takes his place.

December 10: Captain John Smith leads expedition up the Chickahomininy River in search of food and is captured.

Smith is brought before Powhatan;

he believes that Pocahontas, Powhatan's daughter, saves his life.
January 1: Smith returns to James Fort to find that only 38 of the original 104 settlers remain.

January 2: Smith is accused of causing the deaths of his men on the expedition, tried, and condemned to be hanged. Christopher Newport returns just in time with the “first supply” of food and additional settlers; Newport halts the execution.

February: Smith takes Christopher Newport to meet Powhatan. Smith works out an exchange of beads for provisions; “sons” are also exchanged: Thomas Savage goes to live with the Indians and Namontack with the English; they will act as interpreters and liaisons between the two peoples.

September: The “second supply” with 70 new immigrants arrives, including two women, Mrs. Thomas Forrest and her maid, Anne Burras.

November: Jamestown's first wedding: Anne Burras marries John Laydon, a carpenter.

1608

May: James I issues the second charter to the Virginia Company; the “third supply” of nine ships and 500 immigrants leave England bound for Virginia.

July 24: A hurricane sinks one ship; the flag ship Sea Venture (with Thomas Gates, George Somer, and John Rolfe) is tossed about for four days before lodging on a reef in Bermuda; all 150 on board and the supplies are saved; the colonists rebuild two boats from the wreckage.

August: Seven remaining vessels arrive in James Cittie with 200-300 passengers.

September: Smith is wounded in a gunpowder explosion and forced to return to England. Pocahontas is told that her friend Smith is dead.
**September 1609-May 1610:** The “starving time” reduces the population to 60 gaunt survivors from the previous fall's population of 500-600.

**May 23:** Sir Thomas Gates, George Somers, William Strachey and 100 new settlers arrive.

**May 24:** Lieutenant Governor Sir Thomas Gates proclaims martial law.

**June 8:** Lord De La Warr arrives and prevents 250 (?) settlers from returning to England.

**1611**
**May:** Sir Thomas Dale arrives with 300 new settlers.

**1612**
John Rolfe tries a crop of tobacco to help save the Jamestown settlement. Lord De La Warr and the Council issues the legal code that governs the colony until 1619.

**1613**
**June 4:** Captain Argall takes Pocahontas to Jamestown as a hostage.

**1614**
**May 24 (?)**: John Rolfe marries Pocahontas.
**June 28:** Rolfe ships his first load of tobacco to England.

**1616**
**June 3:** Rolfe and Pocahontas (now called Rebecca) arrive in London.
**March 17:** Pocahontas dies in Gravesend, England
1618
May: Powhatan dies.

1619
July 30: Virginia House of Burgesses meets for first time.

July 30-August 4: The General Assembly meets in the choir of the Jamestown church; its first law requires tobacco to be sold for at least three shillings per pound.

August: Twenty Africans are purchased from a passing Portuguese slave ship. They may not have been the first, since some 32 Africans were noted five months earlier in a Virginia census of 1619.

Ninety young women are transported to Virginia to make wives for former tenants; the Virginia Company prices them at "one hundredth and fiftie [pounds] of the best leafe Tobacco."

1622

March 22: The Powhatan Indian Attack kills 347 colonists, setting off a war that lasted a decade.

December 20: The Abigail arrives with no food and an infectious load of passengers (?); plague and starvation reduce the colony to 500 persons

May: Captain William Tucker concludes peace negotiations with a Powhatan village by proposing a toast with a drink laced with poison; 200 Powhatans die instantly and another 50 are slaughtered.
**September:** William Strachey makes the last known reference to James Cittie; surveyor William Clayborne lays out the streets of New Towne, a suburb outside the old James Fort.

**June:** The Virginia Company loses its charter; Virginia becomes a royal province due to mismanagement of the colony. Virginia becomes a royal colony with the governor and council appointed by King James I.

John Smith dies in England at age 51.

Evidence of first slave markets in America.

**January 11:** King Charles I grants colonists the right to call their General Assembly, thereby setting a precedent of partial self-rule for British colonies.

1625-1640
1,000 or more indentured servants arrived, mostly unemployed and seeking economic opportunity.

1644

**April 18:** Chief Opechancanough leads Indians in an attack, killing nearly 500 colonists.

October: A resident in Jamestown shoots Chief Opechancanough.

1644 – 1670s Jamestown port and Triangular Trade develops

1672 Royal African Company begins operations between England, West Africa, and Virginia (English trade goods to West Africa for gold, ivory & slaves; slaves to Virginia for tobacco, and Virginia’s tobacco to markets in England and Europe.)
1676

September 19: Nathaniel Bacon leads southside Virginians against the Indians and in violation of Governor Berkeley's wishes. He openly rebels against Berkley and burns Jamestown to the ground before dying of dysentery on October 26.

October 21: Jamestown's fourth statehouse burns.

1699
The Capitol of Virginia moves from Jamestown to Williamsburg.
For more information

You can learn about Jamestown via lesson plans and activities at these websites -- or the places themselves!

**Historic Jamestowne** (the original site, where you can see building foundations, the Jamestown church [right], an archaeological dig, and the archaeological museum):
http://www.historicjamestowne.org/

**Jamestown Settlement** (a living history museum, featuring re-creation of the fort, the ships [below], and a Powhatan village):
http://www.historyisfun.org/jamestown/jamestown.cfm
Credits/Sources

The original presentation on which this current work is based was written and compiled by Karen Adams Sulkin, The Roanoke Times, from the following sources (and reading list):

*The Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities (APVA)*

*Historic Jamestowne*

*Jamestown Settlement*

*Wikipedia*

*Background Music from “Popular Songs in American History”, a web site by Lesley Nelson-Burns, See at [http://www.contemplator.com]*
Books on Jamestown

These are just a few of the many books about Jamestown:

For Younger Readers


For Older Readers

Billings, Warren M. *Jamestown and the Founding of the Nation*. Thomas Publications.
Brown, Judy M. *Jamestowne’s Uncovered Treasures*. The Dietz Press.
Price, David A. *Love and Hate in Jamestown: John Smith, Pocahontas and the Heart of a New Nation*. Faber and Faber.
Rountree, Helen C. *The Powhatan Indians of Virginia: Their Traditional Culture*, University of Oklahoma Press.