Life, Growth & Development in the Virginia Colony (1700-1760)
People of Virginia

The number of people residing in the Virginia Colony increased gradually from 1700-1730; but, between 1730 and 1760, these numbers increased dramatically from 114,000 to 340,000.
Where were the people?

21 Virginia Counties (1700)

Accomack  Isle of Wight  New Kent  Rappahannock  York
Charles City  James City  Norfolk  Stafford
Elizabeth City  King and Queen  Northampton  Surry
Gloucester  Lancaster  Northumberland  Warwick
Henrico  Middlesex  Princess Anne  Westmoreland
1700

21 Counties
(on the Coast & along rivers leading to the Chesapeake Bay and Atlantic Ocean – i.e., Tidewater)
Immigration and County Formation

In the early 1700s, there was a decline in immigration and trade due to the war of the Spanish Succession (1703-1713) and pirates based at Nassau harassing ships on the East Coast. After the pirate capitol was “reduced” and Blackbeard was beheaded, trade was restored and immigration resumed.

Blackbeard’s Ship

Governor Spotswood encouraged settlement and county formation to the Northwest in the 1720s.
1736-1737 Survey of Fairfax Lands on Northern Neck
In the 1750s, there was continued expansion into the Northwest of Virginia and settlements in Southern portions of the colony gave rise to several new counties.

By 1760, there were 53 counties in the colony of Virginia.

Its population ranked 1st among the original 13 British colonies that declared their “Independence” in 1776.
VA Counties on the coast (i.e., Tidewater) and inland along rivers like the James, Roanoke, York, Potomac, and Rappahannock (i.e., Piedmont)
The 53 Counties that formed in Virginia by 1760 (Mostly in the Tidewater and Piedmont regions)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Accomack</th>
<th>Dinwiddie</th>
<th>Henrico</th>
<th>Nansemond</th>
<th>Richmond</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Albemarle</td>
<td>Elizabeth City</td>
<td>Isle of Wight</td>
<td>New Kent</td>
<td>Southampton</td>
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<td>Amelia</td>
<td>Essex</td>
<td>James City</td>
<td>Norfolk</td>
<td>Spotsylvania</td>
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<td>Augusta</td>
<td>Fairfax</td>
<td>King and Queen</td>
<td>Northampton</td>
<td>Stafford</td>
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<td>Bedford</td>
<td>Fauquier</td>
<td>King George</td>
<td>Northumberland</td>
<td>Surry</td>
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<td>Brunswick</td>
<td>Frederick</td>
<td>King William</td>
<td>Orange</td>
<td>Sussex</td>
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<td>Caroline</td>
<td>Gloucester</td>
<td>Lancaster</td>
<td>Prince Edward</td>
<td>Warwick</td>
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<td>Charles City</td>
<td>Goochland</td>
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<td>Prince George</td>
<td>Westmoreland</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chesterfield</td>
<td>Halifax</td>
<td>Louisa</td>
<td>Prince William</td>
<td>York</td>
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<td>Culpeper</td>
<td>Hampshire</td>
<td>Lunenburg</td>
<td>Princess Anne</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cumberland</td>
<td>Hanover</td>
<td>Middlesex</td>
<td>Rappahannock</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Who were the people?

Disease and hardships took their toll of emigrants & native-born Virginians alike. If children lived past 20, their life expectancy was about 40; but, many children didn’t survive into adulthood.

So, the population of Virginia was very dependent on immigration.
In 1773, the British government began keeping records on every person leaving Great Britain for the colonies.

Early British records show that emigrants were:

- Young (1/2 under 25)
- 3/4 Male
- Indentured Servants & Slaves from West Africa
- Only 1/3 Traveled in Family Groups
- 1/3 from London & 2/5 from Scotland

Counting Emigrants

Mostly young, unmarried men
German Emigrants

In 1714, Governor Spotswood brought 14 iron workers and their families (i.e., about 40 people) from Nassau-Siegen on the Rhine in Germany to create an iron works factory at “Fort Germanna” near Fredericksburg, VA.
Voluntary Servitude in Virginia

From the beginning, people came to the Virginia colony by paying for their passage and/or subsistence through voluntary servitude for from 5- to 7-years. After which, these "indentured servants", usually received severance pay and/or grants to land (from 50 to 100 ac) on the frontier in the colony.

Sometimes, they didn’t fulfill their service contracts and “ran away” (See Washington’s Newspaper Ad).

During the 17th century, most of the white laborers in Maryland and Virginia came from England this way. Their masters were bound to feed, clothe, and lodge them. At the end of the allotted time, an indentured servant was to be given a new suit of clothes, tools, or money, and freed.
FORTY DOLLARS REWARD.

RAN away from the subscriber, on the 19th instant, at night, two servant men, viz. THOMAS SPEARS, a joiner, born in Bristol, about 20 years of age, 5 feet 6 inches and an half high, slender made. He has light grey or blueish coloured eyes, a little pock marked, and freckled, with sandy coloured hair, cut short; his voice is coarse, and somewhat draulling. He took with him a coat, waistcoat, and breeches, of light brown duffil, with black horn buttons, a light coloured cloth waistcoat, old leather breeches, check and oznabrig shirts, a pair of new milled yarn stockings, a pair of old ribbed ditto, new oznabrig trowsers, and a felt hat, not much the worse for wear. WILLIAM WEBSTER, a brickmaker, born in Scotland, and talks pretty broad. He is about 5 feet 6 inches high, and well made, rather turned of 30, with light brown hair, and roundish face. He had an olive coloured coat, pretty much worn, with black horn buttons, duffil waistcoat and breeches (same as Spears's) oznabrig trowsers, and check and oznabrig shirts. They went off in a small yawl, with turpentine sides and bottom, the inside painted with a mixture of tar and red lead. Masters of vessels are cautioned against receiving of them; and the above reward is offered to any person who will deliver them at my dwellinghouse, in this county, or TWENTY DOLLARS for each, from GEORGE WASHINGTON.

FAIRFAX county, April 23, 1775.
White Involuntary Servitude

Some indentured servants came to the Colony by force of a COURT ORDER with expulsion from England as punishment for their crimes. This turned out to be VERY UNDESIREABLE and was prohibited in Gloucester and Middlesex counties after 1671. Unfortunately, the process continued until the Revolutionary War and was finally prohibited throughout the United States in 1788.

Other indentured servants of the laboring classes came to the Colony because they were kidnapped. They had been “spirited” away from England (usually from Bristol and London); and, were called “spirits”.

All white, indentured servants, regardless of originally coming to voluntary or involuntary service, received about the same social status/treatment in the Colony.
Slave Labor in Virginia

In the 1700s, the work force in Virginia shifted from indentured servants to slave laborers. This shift was due to a decline in immigrants from Great Britain & Europe and the increased demand for labor in the tobacco farming industry.

By 1710, about 25% of the population were slaves from West Africa. This percent increased each year.
Agriculture

Tobacco farming was the principal activity of Virginians in the 1700s.

This crop produced “cash” income but exhausted land quickly; so, it was necessary to frequently clear new land for cultivation. For this reason, settlers kept busy moving further and further inland from the coast.

Manner of picking, curing, and packing tobacco in “hogsheads” for shipment.
The typical house of an ordinary farmer was a “dark, drafty, dirt-floored, insect-ridden, one- or two-bedroom box made of green wood and scarcely worth maintaining, since it would be abandoned as soon as its adjoining land was exhausted by ruthless tobacco cultivation.”
Shipping Tobacco

Tobacco was packed in barrels called “hogsheads”, rolled or carted down to landings, and shipped from inland farms on rivers down to ports (e.g., Jamestown) for shipment to agents in England.

River boats called “bateaux” were strong and flat-bottomed to navigate shallow water and could carry hogsheads of tobacco that weighted from 500 to 1,300 pounds each depending on their size. In the 1600s, 4 hogsheads weighed a ton.
Hauling Hogsheads of Tobacco to the Landing on a “Rolling Road”
Shipping to England & Europe from Ports at Alexandria, Norfolk & Jamestown
Waterways

The basic mode of East-West travel in early Virginia was by boat on rivers connecting coastal ports with inland farms, towns and villages.

And, the principal traveled rivers in colonial Virginia were the James, Appomattox, Roanoke, Nottoway, York, Rappahannock, Potomac and the Shenandoah.

Travel by “bateaux” on rivers in Virginia
Roads of Virginia

“King’s Highway” was the **principal inland route of the Colonies** and it ran from Charleston, SC to Boston, MA.

In Virginia, this Highway ran from **Suffolk through Williamsburg and Fredericksburg to Alexandria**.
Stage Coaches Traveled Highways & Byways Connecting Towns in Virginia
Stage Coach Travel Was Dusty, Bumpy, and Slow Between Stops at Taverns or “Ordinaries” Along the Routes
In Northern Virginia, a major tobacco-rolling road was constructed (1760) from Braddock’s Road through Fairfax county to a ship’s “landing” on the Potomac near Mount Vernon.
Rolling Road lead to a Ship’s “Landing” on the Potomac near Mount Vernon
Boydton’s “Plank” Road crossed the Meherrin River and connected Petersburg on the James River with Clarksville on the Roanoke River which flows down to North Carolina (this was later maintained as a “stage coach” road).

The use of rolling roads was discontinued in 1850 because the process “injured” the tobacco being transported that way.
Development of Virginia’s Gentry

By 1760, a few 2nd and 3rd generation Virginia planters were able to accumulate large land holdings -- cultivated in tobacco by imported slaves -- and aspire to a genteeel lifestyle similar to that of the nobility in England.

These landed gentry built large plantations and developed culturally elite societies in stark contrast to the lifestyle of ordinary farmers in Virginia.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Virginia Gentry</th>
<th>Plantation Estate</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>William Byrd II</td>
<td>Westover</td>
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<tr>
<td>William Fitzhugh</td>
<td>Bedford</td>
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<td>Ralph Wormley</td>
<td>Rosegill</td>
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<td>Thomas Lee</td>
<td>Stratford Hall</td>
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<tr>
<td>John Carter</td>
<td>Shirley</td>
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<td>Governor Beverley</td>
<td>Green Spring</td>
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<tr>
<td>Laurence Washington</td>
<td>Mount Vernon</td>
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<tr>
<td>John Tayloe</td>
<td>Mt. Airy</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thomas Jefferson</td>
<td>Monticello</td>
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<tr>
<td>George Mason</td>
<td>Gunston Hall</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thomas Lord Fairfax</td>
<td>Greenway</td>
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<tr>
<td>Carter Burwell</td>
<td>Carter’s Grove</td>
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</table>
William Byrd II's beautiful Westover plantation house was built in 1736.

The whole point of these buildings was for them to be seen; and, as merchants and members of the wealthy class passed on the James River, they would easily notice Byrd's perfect model of Georgian architecture on top of the hill.
Foxhunting Meet at Westover Plantation
Washington’s Mount Vernon Plantation in Colonial Days
The Genteel Life-style
(Washington with Friends/Family in the Garden)
Thomas Lee built his new home on the Potomac River in 1729, naming it Stratford Hall. Four years later, he was appointed to the Governor’s Council of the House of Burgesses. In 1747, he founded the Ohio Company of Virginia with fellow Virginia colonists who wished to expand Virginia's territory into the Ohio River Valley (e.g., George Mason).
Shirley Plantation on the James River

John Carter & (1st wife)
Judith Carter
Towns and Villages in Colonial Days

Early towns and villages in Virginia usually consisted of a courthouse, church, and a market of some sort.

Alexandria, founded in 1749, was typical of these early settlements.

George Washington’s Original Survey Plan for the City of Alexandria

(Area now called “Belhaven”)
Washington at Christ's Church in Alexandria
Old Town Alexandria's Market Square is thought to be one of the nation's oldest continually operating farmer's markets. Farmers and artists have been selling their products on Market Square since 1753.
Virginia’s House of Burgesses

Modeled after the English Parliament, the Virginia House of Burgesses was established in 1619. Members met at least once a year in Jamestown with their royal governor to decide local laws and taxation.

In 1700, the Capitol moved to Williamsburg and the House met there until 1780.

Artisans in Virginia

William Parks became official printer for the Virginia Colony (1730) at his shop in Williamsburg; and, in 1736, he published the first Virginia Gazette.

In 1754, William Hunter of Williamsburg published George Washington’s account of his first skirmish with the French & Indians that became a World-wide War.
French & Indian War in America

Conflict & Results
The French and Indian War was the nine-year North American chapter of the Seven Years War. The conflict, the fourth such colonial war between the kingdoms of France and Great Britain, resulted in the British conquest of all of New France east of the Mississippi River, as well as Spanish Florida.

Causes of the War
Using trading posts and forts, both the British and the French claimed the vast territory between the Appalachian Mountains and the Mississippi River, from the Great Lakes to the Gulf of Mexico, known as the Ohio Country.
Virginia’s Interests in the War

Many Virginians had invested heavily in fur-trading and land in Ohio. If the French made good on their claim to the Ohio Country and drove out the British, then the Virginia merchants and land speculators would lose a lot of money.

In October 1753, Virginia Governor Dinwiddie ordered Major George Washington, of the Virginia militia, to deliver a message to the commander of the French forces in the Ohio Country (i.e., “Ohio Country is British colonial territory”)

Washington & Christopher Gist (his guide) Crossing the Allegany
## French & Indian War (Timeline)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1754</td>
<td>May 28th – July 3rd</td>
<td>Battle of Jumonville Glen</td>
<td>Uniontown, Pennsylvania</td>
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<td>Battle of the Great Meadows (Fort Necessity)</td>
<td>Uniontown, Pennsylvania</td>
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<td>1755</td>
<td>May 29th – July 9th</td>
<td>Braddock expedition</td>
<td>Western Pennsylvania</td>
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<td>June 3rd – 16th</td>
<td>Battle of Fort Beauséjour</td>
<td>Sackville, New Brunswick</td>
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<td>July 9th</td>
<td>Battle of the Monongahela</td>
<td>Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania</td>
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<td>September 8th</td>
<td>Battle of Lake George</td>
<td>Lake George, New York</td>
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<td>1756</td>
<td>August 10th – 14th</td>
<td>Battle of Fort Oswego</td>
<td>Oswego, New York</td>
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<td>September 8th</td>
<td>Kittanning Expedition</td>
<td>Western Pennsylvania</td>
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<td>1757</td>
<td>August 2nd – 6th</td>
<td>Battle of Fort William Henry</td>
<td>Lake George, New York</td>
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<td>1758</td>
<td>June 8th - July 26th</td>
<td>Second Battle of Louisbourg</td>
<td>Louisbourg, Nova Scotia</td>
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<td>July 7th – 8th</td>
<td>Battle of Carillon (Fort Ticonderoga)</td>
<td>Ticonderoga, New York</td>
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<td>September 14th</td>
<td>Battle of Fort Duquesne</td>
<td>Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania</td>
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<td>October 12th</td>
<td>Battle of Fort Ligonier</td>
<td>Western Pennsylvania</td>
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<td>1759</td>
<td>July 6th – 26th</td>
<td>Battle of Ticonderoga (1759)</td>
<td>Ticonderoga, New York</td>
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<td>July 31st</td>
<td>Battle of Fort Niagara</td>
<td>Fort Niagara, New York</td>
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<td>September 13th</td>
<td>Battle of Beaufort</td>
<td>Quebec City</td>
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<td>Battle of the Plains of Abraham</td>
<td>Quebec City</td>
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<td>1760</td>
<td>April 28th</td>
<td>Battle of Sainte-Foy</td>
<td>Quebec City</td>
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<td>July 3-8th</td>
<td>Battle of Restigouche</td>
<td>Pointe-a-la-Croix, Quebec</td>
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<td>August 16th – 24th</td>
<td>Battle of the Thousand Islands</td>
<td>Ogdensburg, New York</td>
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<td>1762</td>
<td>September 15th</td>
<td>Battle of Signal Hill</td>
<td>St. John’s, Newfoundland</td>
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<tr>
<td>1763</td>
<td>February 10th</td>
<td>Treaty of Paris</td>
<td>Paris, France</td>
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</table>
May 28, 1754, young Virginia militia officer Lieutenant Colonel George Washington and the 40 soldiers he commanded attacked the French militia led by Ensign Joseph de Jumonville. The battle lasted little more than 15 minutes and was a complete British victory. Ten French soldiers were killed and 21 were captured, including Jumonville, who was wounded.
Battle at Fort Necessity was a battle of the French and Indian War fought on July 3, 1754 in present-day Fayette County, Pennsylvania. It, along with the Battle of Jumonville Glen, are considered the opening shots of the French and Indian War which would spread to the Old World and become the Seven Year’s War in Europe. It marked George Washington’s only military surrender.
In June of 1755, General Braddock marched his Army consisting of 2 regiments of British regular troops and attachments of colonial militiamen from Alexandria, Virginia to the Forks of the Ohio river.

As they marched, this Army cleared a road for their heavy equipment through dense forests. In July, they finally met the French & Indians near Fort Duquesne.
BRADDOCK'S EXPEDITION
June-July 1755

- Approximate Route of English Troops
- French and Indian Ambush

Contour Interval 1000 feet

Miles
Building Braddock’s Road
French & Indians Attack
General Braddock & most British regular officers are killed. Washington is left to command the Army in retreat.
Fort Duquesne

In 1758, Major-General John Forbes’ British-American army (including 2,000 VA and PA militia led by George Washington) return to Fort Duquesne at the forks of the Ohio.
The culmination of a three-month siege by the British, the battle of Quebec (on the Plains of Abraham) lasted less than an hour. British commander General James Wolfe successfully broke the column advance of French troops and New French militia under General Montcalm. Both generals were mortally wounded during the battle; Wolfe died on the field and Montcalm passed away the next morning.

Death of General Wolfe at Quebec
(Sept. 13, 1759)
Battle of Signal Hill (September 15, 1762) was the final battle of the French and Indian War and forced the French to surrender St John’s Newfoundland to the British under the command of Colonel William Amherst.
Timeline

1700 – Assembly first meets at new College of William & Mary in Williamsburg

1705 – Ferries across rivers in Virginia:

- 20 across the James
- 20 across the York
- 8 across the Rappahannock
- 1 across the Potomac (at Alexandria, VA)
- 2 over to the “Eastern Shore”

-- Assembly passed Law relegating all black slaves to “personal property” status (i.e., they could be bought and sold by owners)
(Timeline Cont.)

**1706-1709** Tobacco exports were from 300 ship-loads in 1706 to 29,000,000 pounds per year in 1709

**1710** Governor’s Palace on “Palace Green” was completed in colonial Williamsburg

**1711** Bruton Parish Church, dating from 1674, was rebuilt in Williamsburg

**1714** Lt. Governor Spotswood built several Iron Furnaces on Rapidan River using German emigrant labor

--- Groups of Indian Tribes assigned “hunting preserves” monitored by white officials.
(Timeline Cont.)

1716  Virginians encouraged to explore and make **new settlements in the West** (i.e., over the Blue Ridge Mountains)

1718  For harassing shipping on the Atlantic Coast, the **pirate “Blackbeard” was caught and beheaded**

1720  **New Counties Created**  
(i.e., Brunswick, Hanover, King George, Spotsylvania) by dividing parts of existing Counties
1723 Treaty with Iroquois League of Nations signed forbidding Indians from crossing the Blue Ridge Mountains

-- Iron smelting plant with air furnace built near Fredericksburg

1724 In “The Present State of Virginia”, Hugh Jones reported that Virginia’s planters loved their horses, riding to Church, Court, and Horse Races (i.e., where they met neighbors and conducted business).

The “Iroquois Trail”
(Timeline Cont.)

1727 **Indian school** established at William & Mary College to “**teach the Indian boys** how to read, write, do arithmetic, and understand the catechism and Christian religion”

1728 Caroline and Goochland **counties created**

-- After 50 years of operation, **Norfolk’s wharf** had docks for over 20 “brigantines and sloops” (i.e., cargo ships)
(Timeline Cont.)

1730  Prince William county created

1733  John Randolph went to England with petition for Parliament to “restructure tobacco market with more equitable profits for Virginia’s planters.”

1734  Amelia and Orange counties created

1736  First issue of Virginia Gazette is published. William Byrd II builds Westover plantation on James River

1738  Augusta and Frederick counties created
1741 Lawrence Washington (i.e., George Washington’s ½ brother from whom he inherited Mount Vernon) was decorated for valor by Admiral Edward Vernon in battle with the Spanish – later he renamed his Hunting Creek plantation “Mount Vernon” in honor of the Admiral.

1742 Fairfax and Louisa counties created

1744 Albemarle county created

1745 Lunenburg county created

1747 Ohio Company formed with several hundred thousand ac. of wilderness land in Southern and Western Virginia (Many influential Virginians involved – e.g., George Mason)
(Timeline Cont.)

1749  Alexandria City, VA founded (survey and lot plan laid out by young George Washington)

-- Washington & Lee University established as “Augusta Academy” school in Lexington, VA

1750  Cumberland Gap between Virginia and present-day Kentucky discovered by Dr. Thomas Walker (i.e., it later became part of the great Wilderness Road to the West)
Cumberland Gap
(Timeline Cont.)

1751  **Carter’s Grove** plantation house built by Carter Burwell along James River

1752  Dinwiddie and Halifax counties created

  -- Laurence Washington dies of TB; George Washington inherits Mount Vernon

  -- **1st Thoroughbred horse race in North America** held at William Byrd III’s **Westover plantation** in Gloucester. Maryland’s imported mare “Selima” beat 4 of Virginia’s imported horses including Byrd’s stallion “Tryal” in a 4 mile long race.

1753  Bedford, Prince Edward, and Sussex counties created
1753 Major George Washington starts the French & Indian War by killing a French “diplomat” during a mission to inform the French commander of the Ohio valley that French forces were on land claimed by Virginia and the British Empire.

1754 Two Virginia militia units sent to the Ohio valley: One to build a fort at forks of the Ohio river; the other, under Lt Col George Washington, was to “cut a road” through the wilderness and provide support.

-- In the Pennsylvania backwoods, Washington’s men fought a skirmish at Jumonville Glen & built Fort Necessity, withstood a brief siege there, and surrendered to superior French forces in the 1st Battle of French & Indian War.
1755 General Edward Braddock arrives at Hampton, Virginia with 2 British infantry regiments, assumes command of colonial militia units, moves this Army to Alexandria and prepares to expel the French from North America.

-- Braddock’s Army is viciously attacked near Fort Duquesne. Over 1,000 British and colonial militiamen are killed or wounded, 63 of 66 British officers including Braddock himself are killed, and George Washington is left in command of a beaten Army.
(Timeline Cont.)

1757  Loudoun county created

1758  George Washington & militia units under British General John Forbes visited Fort Duquesne (found it had been abandoned), renamed it Fort Pitt, and returned to Virginia

1759  George Washington and Martha (Custis) Dandridge married

    --  British Naval & Army forces under General James Wolfe defeated the French under General Montcalm at Quebec (thereby ending French claims to lands in Canada and East of the Mississippi river)
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