

The Atlantic Colonies

1607-1763



by Joe Burton

Colonial America

By the early 1600s, Europeans had established colonies along the waterways of North America. These settlements struggled to survive their first winter, but soon prospered. Settlers came to the New World for religious freedom or economic opportunity, or to acquire great fortune for the “mother country.” Many felt a moral duty to spread Christianity; some Europeans used this cause to justify enslaving American Indians and seizing their land.

European nations with claims to North American often feuded over land. Following the French and Indian War in 1756, when colonial soldiers helped Britain defeat France, Britain established here dominance in the New World.

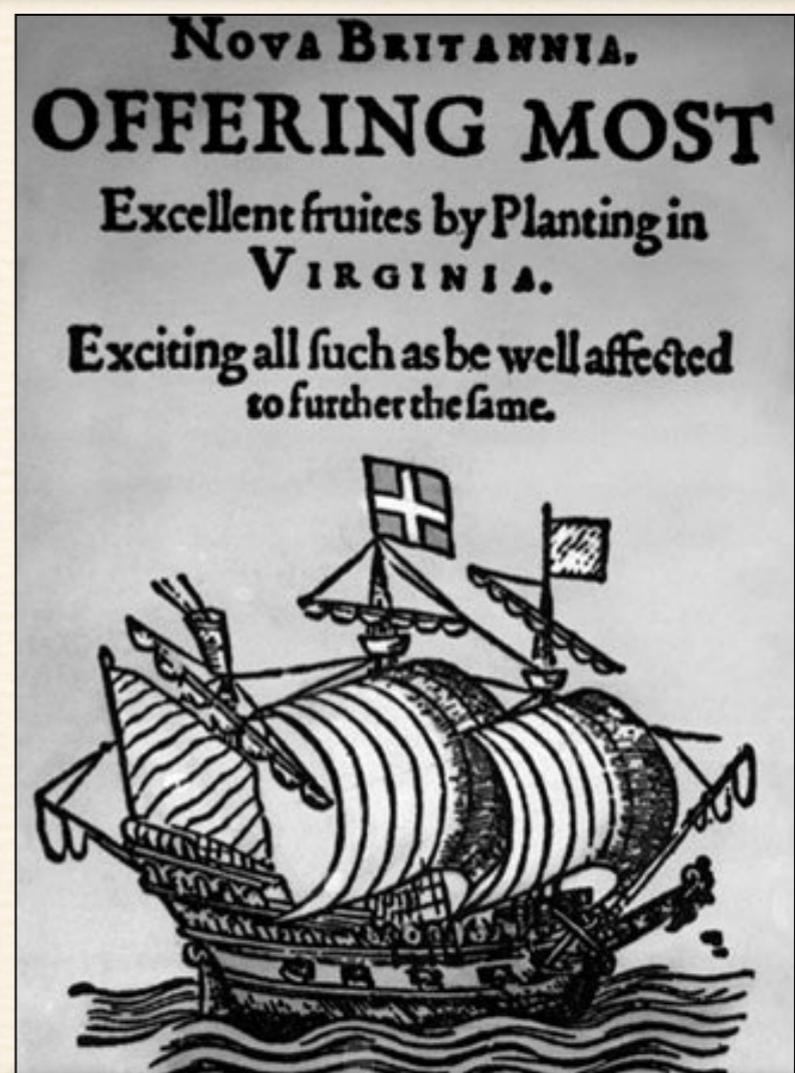


The Atlantic Colonies

- ❖ Europeans searched for Cities of Gold and A Northwest Passage to Asia...
- ❖ Other Europeans searched for fertile soil, fishing waters, and American Indian Tribes eager to trade...
- ❖ The French, Dutch, and Swedes established colonies in The North...
- ❖ The English settled in the Southern Region - named Virginia...
- ❖ After many difficulties, the Atlantic Colonies grew and developed quicker than other European Colonies.



European Colonies Along the Atlantic Coast: This map of the eastern coast of North America shows the establishment of French, Dutch, Swedish, and English settlements.



The Virginia Company of London used pamphlets describing the wonders of their New World Colony to attract new settlers.

Northeast Woodlands

- ❖ Most natives of this culture area...
- ❖ ...made up of New England and the lands surrounding the Great Lakes...
- ❖ ...live by both h hunting and farming.
- ❖ The tribes of this region were splint into two groups...
- ❖ ...by their language.
- ❖ The Algonquin-language tribes included the Huron...
- ❖ the Narragansett, and the Powhatan of Virginia.
- ❖ The Iroquois group, a powerful union of tribes base in what is now New York,,,
- ❖ ...included Mohawk, Oneida, and Seneca.



Log Cabins were an old-world tradition brought to the New World by Swedish settlers in the colony of New Sweden, on Delaware Bay. The Colony was later absorbed in Pennsylvania and New Jersey.

England Secures a Foothold

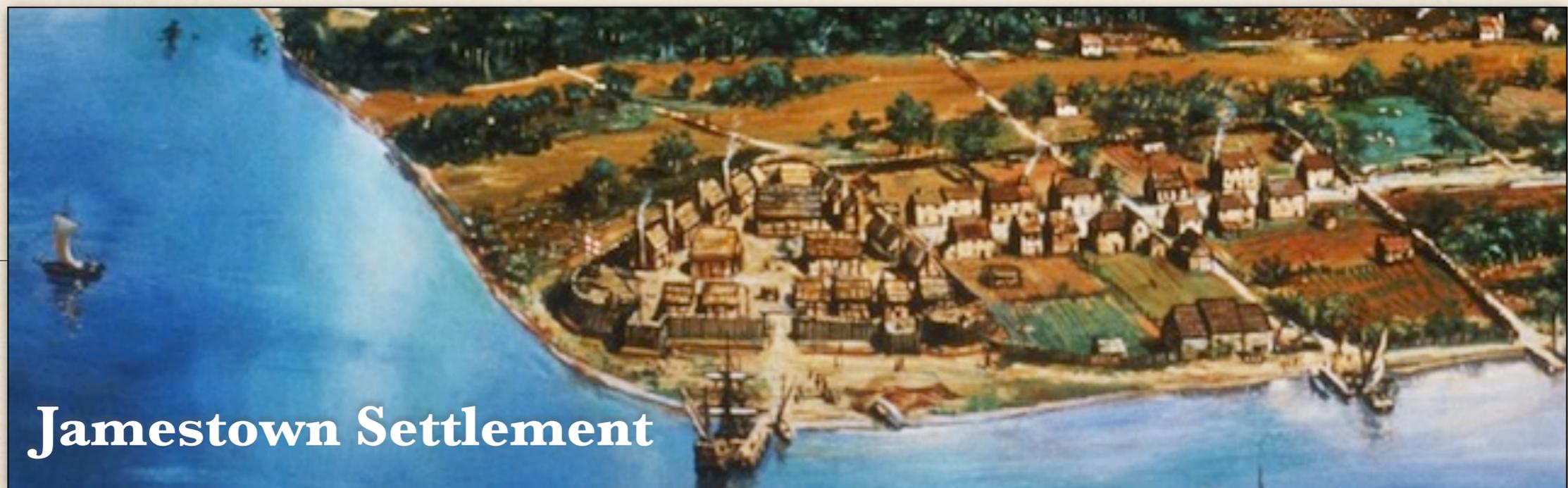
- ❖ Early 1580s, British Explorer Sir Humphrey Gilbert suggested the creation of colonies in North America...
- ❖ Gilbert tried - entire expedition was lost at sea.
- ❖ Attempts were made on the Island of Roanoke - but it failed in 1585 - again in 1587.
- ❖ 1607 - three ships landed 105 men and boys...
- ❖ Mostly wealthy “Gentlemen” who came to find adventure and riches - on the coast of Virginia.

England Secures a Foothold

- ❖ They called this new settlement - Jamestown...
- ❖ To honor King James of England.
- ❖ They constructed their shelters on swampy land where Malaria was prevalent...
- ❖ ...this created a starvation environment - killing 73 of the 105 in the first year.
- ❖ Jamestown survived because of Captain John Smith who took complete charge over a leaderless group.

England Secures a Foothold

- ❖ Smith persuaded the Native Americans...
- ❖ ...the Powhatans - to give them food...
- ❖ ...and teach them how to grow corn and to fish.
- ❖ Smith said - *“He that will not work... shall not eat.”*



The Mystery of Roanoke



In 1587, a group of 130 English men, women, and children started a colony on Roanoke Island off the coast of Virginia. As soon as the colonists were settled, their governor, John White, went back to England for supplies. When he returned three years later, White found the island deserted, but saw no signs of a struggle.

The only clue was the word 'Croatoan' carved on a post. White thought this meant the colonists had moved to nearby Croatoan Island; but not trace of the settlers was found there - or anywhere else. Their fate remains a mystery, though legend holds that they were killed or sold to another tribe by the Powhatan Indians.

French and Dutch Colonies

- ❖ New France, now known as Canada, was founded in 1534...
- ❖ ...by French adventurer Samuel de Champlain.
- ❖ It attracted several thousand fur trappers and traders...
- ❖ ...who hunted the beaver that brought such high prices in Europe.
- ❖ Called 'Coureurs de bois,' "Forest Runners," the French colonists got along well with the neighboring Algonquian tribes...
- ❖ ...and often took Algonquian brides.

French and Dutch Colonies

- ❖ Dutch colonists settled in the fertile Hudson River Valley...
- ❖ ...establishing a network of trading posts, towns, farms, and forts.
- ❖ They built Fort Orange - now Albany, N.Y. in 1614...
- ❖ ...they later purchased part of Manhattan Island from the Indians.
- ❖ 1624 - they established New Amsterdam (NYC).



The Fort protecting the English settlement of Jamestown, seen in a later artist's painting, was built in the summer of 1607.

The Story of Pocahontas



Captain John Smith claimed that in 1607, he was captured by the Powhatans and was about to be executed by have his head bashed in with stones, when the chief's 11-year old daughter Pocahontas (left) rushed forward, placed her head on Smith's, and convinced his captors to spare his life.

While Smith's rescue story may be more legend than fact, we do know that Pocahontas spent a great deal of time with the Jamestown settlers. In 1614, she married one, John Rolfe, who took her to visit England. She died in 1617 on the return voyage to Virginia.



John Gadsby Chapman depicts Pocahontas, wearing white, being baptized Rebecca by Anglican minister Alexander Whiteaker in Jamestown, Virginia...

...this event is believed to have taken place in 1613 or 1614. She kneels, surrounded by family members and colonists.

Her brother Nantequaus turns away from the ceremony. The baptism took place before her marriage to Englishman John Rolfe, who stands behind her.

Their union is said to be the first recorded marriage between a European and a Native American.

The scene symbolizes the belief of Americans at the time that Native Americans should accept Christianity and other European ways.

The Baptism of Pocahontas (1840) is on display in the Rotunda of the US Capitol.

