

Early eighteenth-century transcript. Originally owned by John Randolph, it was acquired by Jefferson when he purchased the library of Randolph's son Peyton.

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#### Manuscript Volume 6

Charters of the Virginia Company of London; Laws; Abstracts of Rolls in the Offices of State. 1606-92.

"The Bland Manuscript."

Jefferson acquired this volume of seventeenth-century transcripts of the charters and fundamental documents in the history of the Virginia Company and colony in 1776 when he purchased the extensive library of Richard Bland (1710-1776), a member of the Virginia House of Burgesses and avid collector of historical documents and books. (The Company's charters can also be found in volume 14.)

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#### Manuscript Volume 7

Virginia Council and Assembly. Laws. March 2, 1642/43 - March 23 1661/62.

Early eighteenth-century transcript. Acquired by Jefferson in 1776 as part of the library of Richard Bland.

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#### Manuscript Volume 8

Virginia Assembly. Laws. 1652-60.

Thomas Jefferson made this transcript from texts compiled by Virginia lawyer John Mercer of Marlborough (1704-1768). A seventeenth-century holograph index is bound in at front.

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#### Manuscript Volume 9

Virginia. Laws. March 23, 1661/62 - August 14, 1702.

"Charles City Manuscript."

This manuscript volume originated in the clerk's office of Charles City, which by 1614 was one of several outlying settlements in Virginia. Jefferson wrote George Wythe on January 12, 1796 that he had found it in "Lorton's tavern" in Virginia, where it was being used as "waste paper." One of these waste paper uses was practicing writing and drawing. The volume pages show fancy signatures, drawings of birds and animals, and other fanciful scribbles overlaying the text of the original.

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#### Manuscript Volume 10

Virginia. Laws. December 23, 1662 - October 21, 1697.

"The Peyton Randolph Manuscript."

Originally owned by Sir John Randolph, and then by his son Peyton, whose library Jefferson purchased in 1776. The contents of this volume are nearly identical to those of volume 9, the "Charles City Manuscript."

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#### Manuscript Volume 11

Virginia. Laws. October 25, 1705.

"Charles City Manuscript."

Jefferson received this manuscript volume from "Mr. Debnam," Charles City clerk.

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#### Manuscript Volume 12

Virginia General Assembly. Laws. October 25, 1705 - November 7, 1711.

"The John Page Manuscript."

Jefferson received this volume from his lifelong friend John Page of Rosewell, Virginia, whose grandfather Mathew Page was a commissioner for the revision of Virginia laws in 1705.

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#### Manuscript Volume 13

Virginia Company of London and the Colony. Miscellaneous Papers. 1606-92.

"Instructions, Commicons letters of Advice and admonitions and Publique Speeches, Proclamations. &c."

Jefferson acquired these seventeenth-century transcripts when he purchased Richard Bland's library in 1776. This volume contains copies of the Company's charters and the colony's correspondence.

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#### Manuscript Volume 14

John Pervis. A Complete Collection of all the Laws of Virginia now in force. March 23 1661/62 - November 10, 1682.

"Carefully Copied from the Assembly Records. To which is annexed an Alphabetical Table." Printed sometime between 1683 and 1687, this volume contains manuscript notes in the margins, possibly in a seventeenth-century hand. A manuscript continuation has been added at the end. According to Jefferson, this volume originally belonged to Colonel William Byrd, who gave it to John Wayles, Jefferson's father-in-law, "whose library came to my hands" (Jefferson to George Wythe, January 12, 1796).

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#### Manuscript Volume 15

Virginia General Court. Cases, with Minutes. 1622-29.

The first two parts of this volume are law cases, 1622-26 and 1626-29, and the third contains Virginia Court Book minutes. Jefferson had an impressive collection of Virginia law books, of which this was one. Beginning in 1807, Jefferson made this and many other volumes available to William Waller Hening, clerk of the Chancery Court in Richmond, for his compilation *The Statutes at Large; being a collection of all the laws of Virginia, from the first session of the legislature, in the year 1619* (Richmond, 1809-23).

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#### Manuscript Volume 16

#### Manuscript Volume 17

Virginia Company of London. Court Book. Part A. April 28, 1619 - May 8, 1622.



Virginia Company of London. Court Book. Part B. May 20, 1622 - June 7, 1624.

These volumes are the only contemporaneous surviving copy of the Court Book of the Virginia Company of London, which established the Jamestown colony in 1607. The Court Book for the earlier period, 1606-18, does not survive in any form.

On May 9, 1623, the Crown appointed a commission to investigate the Virginia Company's financial affairs and sequestered its papers. Before the papers were turned over to the Privy Council, Company deputy Nicholas Ferrar had them copied. The Company lost its charter as a result of the investigation and by 1630 had ceased to exist. Where the original Court Book and Ferrar's copy of it went thereafter is unknown.

Jefferson believed that the Court Book ended up in the hands of the Earl of Southampton, a member of the Company and an ally of Edwin Sandys, treasurer during the period covered by the Book, and that it was then purchased from Southampton's executor in London by one of the Byrd family. It was a part of the third William Byrd's library when he died in 1777.

On October 4, 1823, Jefferson wrote Hugh P. Taylor that he had acquired the Court Book as part of his purchase of Richard Bland's library. Jefferson did not include the Court Book in the nearly 6700 volumes he sold to Congress in 1815. The Library of Congress acquired it later in 1829 from Jefferson's grandson, Thomas Jefferson Randolph.

In addition to the manuscript volume, a published edition of the Court Book is available in *Records of the Virginia Company*.

**Correlating the Published Edition (volumes I & II) with the Virginia Records Manuscripts (volumes 16 & 17)**

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**Manuscript Volume 18**

Virginia Executive Council. Transactions. December 9, 1698 - May 20, 1700.

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**Manuscript Volume 19**

Virginia. Foreign Business and Inquisitions. 1665-76.

This volume contains depositions in regard to maritime prizes and cases of escheat, in which land reverts to the Crown, state, or feudal lord upon the death of a tenant without heirs or succeeding grantees. Also included are copies of correspondence between Virginia government officers and Maryland and Georgia governors.

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**Manuscript Volume 20**

Virginia. Miscellaneous Records. 1606-26.

The volume includes contemporaneous copies of correspondence between the Privy Council in London and the governor and Council in Virginia. It contains the Company's "A Declaration of the present State of Virginia humbly presented to the Kings most excellent Matie [Majestie] by the Company for Virginia," April 12, 1623, and other statements presented in 1624 when the Company was under investigation; laws passed and petitions received by the Virginia General Assembly; and contemporaneous copies of the Company's 1606 and 1609 charters.

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**Manuscript Volume 21**

Virginia. Laws, Commissions, and Proclamations. October 16, 1629 - August 21, 1633.

Originally owned by Sir John Randolph and acquired by Jefferson when he

purchased the library of his son Peyton.

## ***Records of the Virginia Company - Published Edition***

*Records of the Virginia Company*. Edited by Susan Myra Kingsbury. Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, Volumes I and II, 1906; Volumes III and IV, 1933, 1935.

### Published Edition Volume I

### Published Edition Volume II

The Court Book. 1619-1622

The Court Book. 1622-1624

Volume I is a published edition of the manuscript [volume 16](#), the Court Book, Part A, and volume II is of the manuscript [volume 17](#), the Court Book, Part B.

### **Correlating the Published Edition (volumes I & II) with the Virginia Records Manuscripts (volumes 16 & 17)**

#### **Published Edition Volume III**

Miscellaneous Records: [Table of Contents](#) | [Page Images](#)

#### **Published Edition Volume IV**

Miscellaneous Records: [Table of Contents](#) | [Page Images](#)

Volumes III and IV publish documents from manuscript volume 20, Miscellaneous Records, 1606-26, and documents from many other repositories in the United States and Great Britain. "While the Court Book of the Virginia Company, published as Volumes I and II presents minutes of the meetings of the corporation," Volumes III and IV "vivify its decisions and decrees, explain the difficulties met and overcome by that redoubtable group of adventurers, reveal the petty jealousies of the administrators, and especially record the controversy between the company and Crown that resulted in the dissolution of the corporation and the creation of the first crown colony of Great Britain" (Kingsbury, page vii).

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### **About Dates**

Volume year dates such as March 5, 1623/24 offer both the Old (Julian) Calendar year date and the New (Gregorian) Calendar year date in use today. These double-year dates occur mostly for the months of January through March. The New Calendar was adopted by Great Britain and its colonies in 1752, when eleven days were added to that year to bring the calendar in line with the solar year.

### **About Early Modern English**

The text of Series 8 manuscript volumes and primary texts published in *Records of the Virginia Company* are in early modern English. Varying spelling styles, the extensive use of word abbreviations, and a sentence syntax favoring multiple dependent clauses may make this text initially daunting to modern English readers. However, after reading a few pages, one becomes accustomed to the grammar, syntax, and usage of the time, and also of particular writers. Practice and familiarity make these texts easier to read.

The preface of *Records of the Virginia Company* provides a list of the most **commonly used abbreviations**. This page is made accessible here to view or print for ready reference.

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Mary Anne Everett Green (ed.)  
Calendar of State Papers Domestic Series, The reign of James I  
1611-1618 preserved - The State Paper Department of Her

Majesty's Publishers Office  
(London: Longman, Brown, Green, Longmans & Roberts 1858).

p 538 <sup>vol XCVII</sup> Bond of the Bargrave of Petrich's-bourne, Kent, at Jas. Brett  
of London - 100 l. to indemnify Lord Zouch for delivering  
up to him the ship Edun, from Virginia, with her cargo,  
which Bargrave is owner of Brett master. (May 4)  
1618

p 544 <sup>vol XCVII</sup> [Che II] Lord Zouch to Capt Wood. Intend to adventure his  
person <sup>1618</sup> with Mr Bargrave to Virginia. Desires him to prepare the  
bargain, and advise the best course to be taken there.  
(Minute, Mary, Don. Cases Oct 20, 1618)



## Search in this book

5 pages matching "**john bargrave**" in this book

Page 391

1618. Bond of John Bargrave and James Bret for the delivery of a ship.  
May 4. *Domestic Correspondence, James I, Volume 97, No. 56.* [p. 226.]
1618. Extract from a diary as to Captain Ward and Mr. Bargrave. *Domestic,*

Page 395

Inclosure.

1622. Note in regard to suit between John Bargrave and others. *Colonial*  
Feb. 19. *Papers, Volume 2, No. 4<sup>3</sup>.* [p. 52.]  
Inclosure.

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1622. Answer of Treasurer and Council of Virginia Company to Bargrave's  
June 7. petition. *Colonial Papers, Volume 2, No. 7.* [p. 64.]
1622. Petition of John Bargrave. *Colonial Papers, Volume 2, No. 8.* [p. 65.]

[Where's the rest of this book?](#)

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CALENDAR  
OF  
STATE PAPERS,  
COLONIAL SERIES,  
1574—1660,

PRESERVED IN THE  
STATE PAPER DEPARTMENT  
OF  
HER MAJESTY'S PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE.

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EDITED BY  
W. NOËL SAINSBURY, ESQ.,  
HONORARY MEMBER OF THE NEW ENGLAND, NEW YORK, MARYLAND,  
PENNSYLVANIA, AND SOUTH CAROLINA HISTORICAL SOCIETIES.

UNDER THE DIRECTION OF THE MASTER OF THE ROLLS, AND WITH THE SANCTION OF  
HER MAJESTY'S SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIAL DEPARTMENT.

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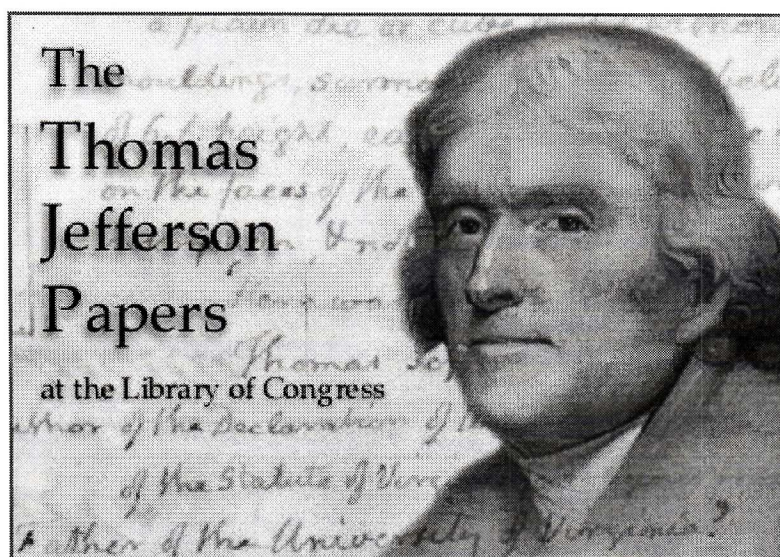
First published by Her Majesty's Stationery Office  
London  
1860

## VOL. I.

1618.  
Jan 31. Chamberlain to Carleton. Lord De la Warr returning to Virginia ; London. takes seven or eight score men with him. Sir Thos. Gates " makes account " to follow some time next summer. [*Extract from DOMESTIC Corresp. Jac. I., Vol. XCV., No. 27, Cal. p. 518.*] On the 16 March following Chamberlain writes that De la Warr has at last set out for Virginia. [*Ibid. Vol. XCVI., No. 63, p. 527.*]
- May 3. 37. Lord Admiral Nottingham's pass for the Edwin of London returned from Virginia. [On 4 May John Bargrave, owner, and Jas. Brett, master of the Edwin entered into a bond of 100*l.* to indemnify Lord Zouch for delivering the ship with her cargo up to them. See *DOMESTIC Corresp. Jac. I., Vol. XCVII., No. 56, Cal. p. 538.*]
- June 11. Lord Zouch to Capt. Ward. Intends to adventure his pinnace with [Capt. John] Bargrave to Virginia. Desires him to prepare the bargain and advise him of the best course to be taken. [*Minute. DOMESTIC Corresp. Jac. I., Vol. CIII., No. 44, Cal. p. 544.*]
- Oct. ? 38. Project of the intended voyage to Virginia by Capt. Andrews and Jacob Braems, merchant, in the Silver Falcon, addressed to Lord Zouch. Their intention is to leave certain people in the country to plant tobacco and corn, and to exchange commodities with the English colony ; to discover and trade with the savages ; to fish upon the coast of Canada, and exchange the fish when salted for commodities from Virginia. The rumour of Lord De la Warr's death has discouraged some who promised to adventure money and deterred others who offered to go in person. Entreat his protection, and that they may enjoy the privilege of free trade and plantation in those parts, promising in the event of any extraordinary benefit accruing to them that they will give a proportion towards the charges of the company. [On 14 Oct. Chamberlain writes that Lord De la Warr died on his voyage to Virginia, having touched at the Terceras, where he was feasted and well used, but the sickness and death of him and of most of them that landed make it suspected that they had ill measure. The city is now shipping thither a hundred young boys and girls who lay starving in the streets, the charge will not be above 500*l.* *Extract from DOMESTIC Corresp. Jac. I., Vol. CIII., No. 33, Cal. p. 584.*]
- Oct. 19. Sir Edward Hext, Justice of the Peace of Somersetshire, to the Netherham. Privy Council. Upon complaint that Owen Evans, Messenger of the Chamber, had pretended a commission to press maidens to be sent to the Bermudas and Virginia, and raised money thereby, he issued a warrant for his apprehension. Evans's undue proceedings breed such terror to the poor maidens, that forty have fled from one parish to obscure places, and their parents do not know what has become of them. [*DOMESTIC Corresp. Jac. I., Vol. CIII., No. 42, Cal. p. 586.* Another letter on this subject, with examinations enclosed, will be found *Ibid. No. 87, Cal. p. 594.*]
- Oct. 25. John Pory to Sir Dudley Carleton. Capt. Yeardley chosen Go- London. vernor of Virginia in Lord De la Warr's place (who died in Canada) ;



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The complete Thomas Jefferson Papers from the Manuscript Division at the Library of Congress consists of approximately 27,000 documents. This is the largest collection of original Jefferson documents in the world. Document types in the collection as a whole include correspondence, commonplace books, financial account books, and manuscript volumes. The collection is organized into nine series or groupings, ranging in date from 1606 to 1827. Correspondence, memoranda, notes, and drafts of documents make up two-thirds of the Papers and document Jefferson's activities as a delegate to the second Continental Congress, his drafting of the Declaration of Independence, June-July 1776, his position as governor of Virginia, 1779-81, his return to Congress as a representative, 1783-84, and his appointment as minister plenipotentiary in Europe and then minister to the Court of Louis XVI, succeeding Benjamin Franklin, 1784-89. Well documented are his two administrations as president from 1801 through 1809, when he engineered the purchase of the Louisiana territory and maintained American neutrality in the conflict between France and Great Britain that led to the War of 1812. Correspondence, drawings, maps, and notes document the building of Washington, D.C. The broad range of Jefferson's intellectual and political interests is represented by his legal and literary commonplace books, miscellaneous bound volumes of notes and extracts, and manuscript volumes relating to seventeenth- and eighteenth-century Virginia history, some of which were part of the personal library he sold to Congress in 1815. In its online presentation, the Thomas Jefferson Papers comprises approximately 83,000 images. This project is funded by Reuters America, Inc., and The Reuters Foundation.

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#### **The Jamestown Records of the Virginia Company of London: A Conservator's Perspective by Sylvia R. Albro and Holly H. Krueger**

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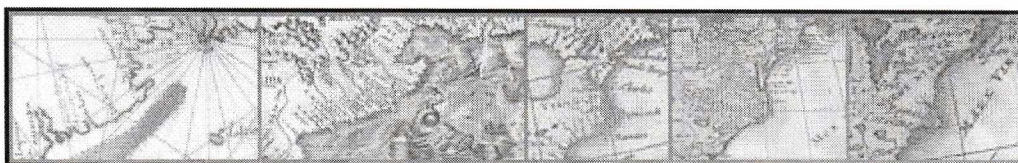
**NOTICE**

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## VIRGINIA RECORDS TIME LINE

<u>1553-</u> <u>1599</u>	<u>1600-</u> <u>1609</u>	<u>1610-</u> <u>1619</u>	<u>1620-</u> <u>1629</u>	<u>1630-</u> <u>1639</u>	<u>1640-</u> <u>1649</u>	<u>1650-</u> <u>1699</u>	<u>1700-</u> <u>1743</u>
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Selected Early North America Reference Maps, ca. 1544-1716

### 1553-1599

#### 1553

The London Company of Merchant Adventurers of England for the Discovery of Lands Unknown is organized. An "adventurer" is a business investor who "ventures" capital. The Company supports Sir Hugh Willoughby and his ship pilot, Richard Chancellor, in their attempt to find a northern sea route from England to Cathay (China) and the Spice Islands (Moluccas). The Company provides a model for future enterprises, such as the Virginia Company of London, chartered in 1606.



[Philip II, King of Spain, head-and-shoulders portrait, facing right], Photoprint of a painting by Antonio Moro. created/published [between 1870 and 1920](?). Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division. Reproduction Number: LC-USZ62-102288



Pedro Menendez de Aviles... Engraving by Francisco de Paula Martí. created/published [1791]. Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division. Reproduction Number: LC-USZ62-102263

#### 1561

Two Spanish ships commanded by Pedro Menendez Aviles, on their way from Havana to Spain, land near the future Jamestown colony location to forage for supplies.

#### 1568

The northern provinces of the Low Countries (later the Netherlands) break away from the Spanish rule of King Philip II. The English aid the Dutch in their battle against Catholic Spain, and in 1578 make a treaty of alliance with the Dutch

against the Spanish.

### 1583

June. Five ships under the command of Sir Humphrey Gilbert sail from England for Newfoundland. Gilbert had fought in the Netherlands against the Spanish and been thwarted by them in an earlier attempt to establish a colony farther south. With 250 colonists, Gilbert stops first off Newfoundland Banks, and then off St. John's Harbor further south, where the colonists land. By 1602, Newfoundland and Nova Scotia are regularly visited by fishing and trading expeditions.

### 1584

March 25. Walter Raleigh obtains the patent that Gilbert had originally received from Queen Elizabeth. The patent allows Raleigh to claim and settle any lands in the New World not yet occupied by other Christians.

April 24. Philip Amadas and Arthur Barlowe, commanding two ships for Walter Raleigh, leave Devon, England, for the New World. Barlowe writes an account of the voyage, which appears in Richard Hakluyt's three-volume work, *The Principal Navigations Voyages Traffiques & Discoveries Made by Sea or Overland to the Remote & Farthest Distant Quarters of the Earth . . . .*, first published in London between 1598 and 1600. Barlowe's voyage brings him to the outer banks of present-day North Carolina and to the later-named Roanoke Islands. Barlowe encounters Algonquian Indians and two of these, Manteo and Wanchese, return with him to England.

### 1585

January 6. Queen Elizabeth knights Walter Raleigh and makes him governor of the new territory discovered by Amadas and Barlowe. Raleigh names it "Virginia" in her honor.

April 9. Another Raleigh-sponsored expedition, commanded by Sir Richard Grenville, departs for Virginia. It consists of the *Tiger*, *Roebuck*, *Lion*, *Elizabeth*, and *Dorothy*. After a variety of adventures, most of the ships arrive off Wococon and Croaton Islands off Pamlico Sound. The Indians Manteo and Wanchese accompany this expedition back to their home. After settling on Roanoke Island, the colonists begin to explore inland.

May. Philip II of Spain orders the seizure of all English ships in Spanish ports in retaliation for English support of the Dutch. This makes supplying the colony on Roanoke Island difficult.

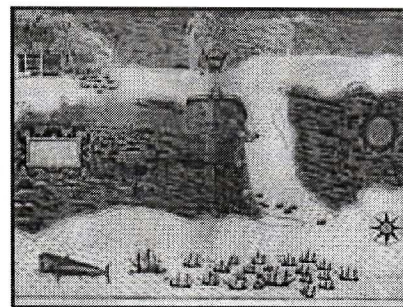
June 1. Relations between the Roanoke settlers and Indians deteriorate, and



under the leadership of Ralph Lane, the English attack the Indians at their village, Dasemunkepeuc.

## 1586

June 11. Sir Francis Drake meets with Ralph Lane at Roanoke. Drake, famous for his recent circumnavigation of the globe, had left Plymouth, England, on September 14, 1584, on an expedition against the Spanish. He has attacked the Spanish at St. Augustine (in present-day Florida), looted Santo Domingo and Cartagena, and then sailed north to meet with the settlers at Roanoke who are desperate for supplies. Unfortunately, he has none, and after a severe hurricane the colonists decide to depart with Drake in August.



**"St. Augustine," London: 1589,** Library of Congress Rare Book and Special Collections Division. (Library of Congress Exhibitions "Drake's Attack on St. Augustine")

August. Shortly after Sir Francis Drake's departure from Roanoke with the colonists, Sir Richard Grenville and a supply ship sent by Raleigh arrive at Roanoke to find the place deserted except for three men mistakenly left behind by Drake. Grenville has brought more colonists, and his arrival reestablishes the colony.

## 1587

April 26. Sir Walter Raleigh sends out three ships with women as well as men, with promises of land grants to whomever establishes a colony on the Chesapeake Bay. The expedition is headed by the flagship *Lion* and commanded by John White, an artist. The colonists make landfall at Roanoke instead of the shores of Chesapeake Bay, and on August 27, White sails back to England. Upon his arrival there on October 16, he learns that war has broken out between England and Spain.

## 1588

England and Spain are at war and compete fiercely to dominate trade with the New World and to establish their respective churches, Spain's Roman Catholicism and English Protestantism, in New World settlements. Spain dominates trade routes across the Atlantic and establishes firm footholds on the Atlantic and South Sea (Pacific) coasts of South America. The English, Dutch, and French challenge this dominance.

July 31. A sea battle between the English fleet and the Spanish Armada takes

place. The English win even though they are greatly outnumbered by Spanish ships. Spain attempts to send two more armadas against England in 1596 and 1597.

## 1590

Late August. An expedition, made up of the *Moonlight*, *Little John*, *Hopewell*, and other ships, commanded by Christopher Newport and carrying former commander John White, arrives off Roanoke Island. The expedition finds the island completely deserted. White discovers the letters "CRO" carved on the trunk of a tree on the banks of the island. The full word "CROATAN" is carved on the fort's gate. White had agreed with the colonists that if they had to move inland, they would indicate where they were going by carving the information on a tree, with a cross above it if they were also in need of help at their intended destination. The expedition is unable to find the colonists and eventually returns home. In 1602, Raleigh sends an expedition to search for them. The colonists are never found and their fate remains unknown.

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<a href="#"><u>1553-1599</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>1600-1609</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>1610-1619</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>1620-1629</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>1630-1639</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>1640-1649</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>1650-1699</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>1700-1743</u></a>
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## VIRGINIA RECORDS TIME LINE

<u>1553-</u> <u>1599</u>	<u>1600-</u> <u>1609</u>	<u>1610-</u> <u>1619</u>	<u>1620-</u> <u>1629</u>	<u>1630-</u> <u>1639</u>	<u>1640-</u> <u>1649</u>	<u>1650-</u> <u>1699</u>	<u>1700-</u> <u>1743</u>
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Selected Early North America Reference Maps, ca. 1544-1716

### 1600-1609

#### 1603

Queen Elizabeth I dies. James I succeeds her.

#### 1604

James I makes peace with Spain.

#### 1605

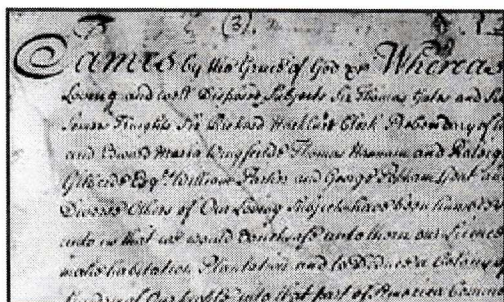
Christopher Newport makes an exploratory voyage along the North American coast. The English are especially anxious to find a northern route or passage to the South Sea (Pacific Ocean) and the Spice Islands beyond as an alternative to the Spanish-dominated southern route. The size of the North American continent is not yet known and explorers hope to find a water route through it.

#### 1606

King James of England charters the Virginia Company of London and appoints a royal council to oversee its ventures and the colony. Among the charter applicants is Richard Hakluyt, author of the three-volume *Principal Navigations Voyages Traffiques . . . .* (1598-1600). Other applicants are Sir Thomas Gates and Sir George Somers. Company adventurers (investors) include merchants from the west and former soldiers who had fought as mercenaries on the side of the Dutch against the Spanish. The Virginia Company hopes to find a water passage to the South Sea (Pacific Ocean) by exploring tributary rivers and plans to establish a colony in Virginia. Its "brother" company, the Plymouth Company, headed by Sir John Popham, sends an expedition northward to present-day Maine. Instructions Given....

December 20. The first expedition of the Virginia Company, consisting of the *Susan Constant*, *Godspeed*, and a small ship, *Discovery*, all commanded by Christopher Newport, sails from England. Newport, an experienced privateer, has been active in the West Indies since the 1590s. He carries sealed directions from the Company, not to be opened until after the expedition's arrival in Virginia. One-half of the 120 passengers are "gentlemen": a gentleman is not a member of the nobility, but he is generally distinguished from those who practice a trade or profession.

Among the passengers is John Smith (1580-1631), who spends part of the voyage imprisoned for challenging Newport's command.



Charter for the Virginia Company of London, 1606., Library of Congress, Manuscript Division.



Virginia, discovered and described by Captayn John Smith, 1606; graven by William Hole. (1624) Library of Congress, Geography and Map Division.

## 1607

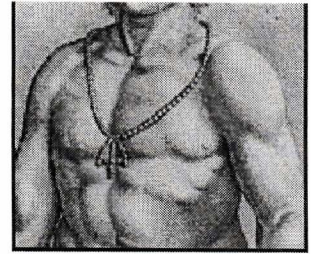
May 14. Newport and his passengers arrive at Powhatan River, which they rename the James River. One hundred and five men form the first settlement on an island (today, a peninsula) in the James River, initially called "James Fort," then "James Towne" and "James Citie." The site offers a harbor that is deep enough for the colonists' ships and secluded from the view of any Spanish ships that might be offshore. However, it is also swampy, infested with mosquitoes, and lacks sufficient fresh water sources. After eight months there will be only thirty-eight people left alive.

Upon arrival, Newport opens the sealed instructions from the Virginia Company of London. They specify a thirteen-man council, among whose members are John Smith; Newport (who returns to England); John Ratcliffe; George





Kendall, a cousin of Sir Edwin Sandys; Edward Maria Wingfield; Anthony Gosnold; Richard Hunt, a minister; John Marten and Sir Richard Marten, both related to Julius Caesar, England's Master of the Rolls. This Council elects a president, Edward Maria Wingfield. Among the passengers are carpenters, a blacksmith, a mason, a tailor, a barber, and two surgeons. The instructions and two incomplete lists of the expeditions' passengers survive in John Smith's *Works*. Virginia Records Selected Bibliography | Oaths of Supremacy and Allegiance Administered to the Colonists



**Unus Americanus ex Virginia. Aetat 23 / W. Hollar ad vivum delin. et fecit.** Etching by Wenceslaus Hollar (1607-1677) created/published [Antwerp : 1645]. Twenty-three-year old Virginia Algonquian man, half-length portrait, wearing necklace and head ornaments, and with facial markings, facing slightly left. Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division. Reproduction Number: LC-USZC4-4603

May. A week after landing, Captain Christopher Newport leads a small contingent of men on an exploratory journey up the James River for the first time, in the course of which they meet Powhatan Indians and a tribal leader, Opechancanough. The Powhatans are a confederation of tribes occupying a region from present-day coastal North Carolina to present-day Richmond. Jamestown is in the midst of the territory of the Paspahegh, whose leader or "weroance" is Wowinchopunck. Other nearby tribes are the Kecoughtans at the mouth of the James River, and the Quiyoughcohanocks, Weanocs, Appomattocks, and Chiskiacks, further inland. All these tribes of Virginia's tidewater region are Algonquians.

May 26. Hostilities between the colonists and Indian tribes result in the death of approximately two hundred Indians and several colonists.

June 8. James Fort is attacked by the Paspaheghs, supported by recruits from other tribes. Despite hostilities such as these, Powhatan tribes supply the colonists with food at times of dire need during the next several decades of Jamestown's existence.

July 29. The *Susan Constant* and *Godspeed*, which departed Jamestown on June 22, arrive in London. The ships bring mineral samples, which turn out to be base metals rather than gold.

August 17. The Virginia Company meets in London to consider Christopher Newport's report and this first expedition to Virginia. At this time, the Spanish ambassador to England, Don Pedro de Zúñiga, writes Philip II of Spain about the new colony, Jamestown, and the danger of further English incursions in the New World.



August 28. At Jamestown, George Kendall is accused of sowing discord among the colonists, is imprisoned and eventually executed.

September. Wingfield is deposed as president of the governing Council of Jamestown and replaced by John Ratcliff. Food supplies dwindle.

October 8. Christopher Newport sails from England to Jamestown with two supply ships and approximately one hundred additional colonists.

Early December. John Smith leads a party in search of Indians willing to trade or supply the colony with food, especially corn. Indian warriors capture Smith and his men on the Chickahominy River and take him to Werowocomoco on the York River, where the confederation's leader, Powhatan, receives him. According to Smith, he and his party are eventually released because Powhatan's daughter Pocohontas (Matoaka) intercedes with her father to save Smith's life. She would have been ten or twelve at the time.

## 1608

January 2. John Smith arrives back at Jamestown to find most of the colony boarding the ship *Discovery* and abandoning the colony to return to England. Fortunately, before they can leave one of Newport's supply ships, the *John and Francis*, arrives. Newport brings one hundred new settlers.

January 7. A fire destroys many buildings within the the Jamestown fort, among them the colony's first church. Most of the colony's provisions are destroyed, including those recently brought in the *John and Francis*. The other supply ship, *Phoenix*, is lost. Powhatan provides food for the colony. The *Phoenix* eventually arrives on April 20. Both supply ships also bring more colonists.

February. John Smith, Christopher Newport, Thomas Savage, and others sail up the York River to meet with Powhatan. They exchange hostages. Thomas Savage remains behind to live with the Powhatans, while an Indian, Namontack, returns with the English to live at Jamestown.

April 10. Newport sails for England on the *John and Francis*.

April 20. The lost supply ship, the *Phoenix*, commanded by Francis Nelson, arrives at Jamestown with forty more settlers and supplies.

June 2. The *Phoenix* sails back to England with a load of cedarwood.

August. The third expedition to Jamestown sails from England. Commanded

again by Christopher Newport, the expedition brings an additional seventy colonists to Virginia.

September. The Council elects John Smith as president. He writes a letter to the Company treasurer in London providing an account of the colony's progress. Smith defends the colony against the Company's criticism that the Jamestown Council has not kept London informed--"we feed You but with ifs & ands, hopes, & some few proofes; as if we would keepe the mystery of the Businesse to our selues"--and that he, Smith, has encouraged rather than eliminated disputes and divisions among the colonists. Regarding the latter, Smith argues, "vnless you would haue me run away and leaue the Country, I cannot prevent them," and says that his greater concern is to "make many stay what would els fly any whether." The letter reaches London early in 1609.

October. Newport arrives in Jamestown with the Company's second expedition of supplies and more colonists. Among the colonists are two women, one the wife of Thomas Forest, and the other, her maid, Anne Buras. Dutch and Polish artisans who will establish a glassworks, and artisans experienced in the production of pitch, tar, and other naval stores have also arrived.

## 1609

Winter to mid-May. The Colony experiences its first extreme food crisis, called "the starving time." Reports circulating in London include incidents of cannibalism. The Virginia Company publicly denies the story.

July. The *Mary and John*, a ship unconnected to the Virginia Company, arrives at Jamestown. It is the first ship to use Jamestown as a port.

July. The *Sea Venture*, and accompanying ships, another supply expedition, are destroyed in a hurricane in the West Indies. Survivors find refuge on Bermuda island. The *Sea Venture* carries new leaders for Jamestown, among whom are Sir Thomas Gates, who had served with the Dutch against Spain, Sir George Somers, and William Strachey. Strachey's account of the storm and the survivors' experiences on Bermuda has long been thought to have inspired Shakespeare's play *The Tempest*, although some scholars disagree.

May 23. The King recharter the Virginia Company of London, transferring governance and control of the colony from the Crown to the Company itself. The Company replaces the original colonial executive body, the Council, with the office of governor. Later the Council will re-emerge as an upper house of the legislature. The Company has approximately 650 members; twenty are from the nobility and one hundred are knights.

September. John Ratcliffe is killed by the Powhatan Indians after attempting to bargain with them for food supplies at the Pamunkey River.

November. Anne Buras, one of the first two women to arrive in Jamestown, marries John Layden in the first wedding at Jamestown.

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## VIRGINIA RECORDS TIME LINE

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Selected Early North America Reference Maps, ca. 1544-1716

### 1610-1619

#### 1610

Sir Thomas Gates is deputy governor until the arrival of Thomas West, Lord De La Warr, the newly appointed governor of Jamestown.

The Virginia Company sends the Reverend Richard Buck to Jamestown to be the colony's first chaplain.

Dutch colonists begin operating a glassworks at Jamestown.

May 23 or 24. The *Deliverance* and the *Patience* arrive in Jamestown, carrying John Rolfe, Ralph Hamor, Sir George Somers, and others from the *Sea Venture* wreck. The survivors have built the two ships on Bermuda island from wreckage of the original ships destroyed in a hurricane. They find approximately sixty malnourished colonists at Jamestown.

May 24. Sir Thomas Gates, the new governor of Jamestown establishes martial law under *Laws Divine, Morall and Martiall*. These laws are published in London in 1612.

June 7. Conditions continue to deteriorate at Jamestown and Sir Thomas Gates and the colonists sail away, abandoning the colony. But they encounter Lord De la Warr and his supply ships at Mulberry Island on June 8 and return to Jamestown three days later.

August 9. Jamestown colonists attack the Paspagegh Indians. They defeat the Pasageghs decisively, at least for the moment. Friction continues between the Paspageghs and the English who have settled on their land.

**1611**

Lord De La Warr serves as governor from June 10, 1610 through late March 1611 and then departs for England. George Percy serves as deputy governor through the end of May, when Thomas Dale arrives and replaces him.

September. Thomas Dale leads a group of colonists to establish Henricus (later Henrico), one of the first outlying settlements in Virginia.

**1612**

The third charter of the Virginia Company of London reaffirms its independence from the Crown in matters of trade and governance. A new council, drawn from all Company members, makes policy and writes instructions for Jamestown. Meetings of the weekly "court" or assembly made up of officers and some members will be more frequent, and there will be a great quarterly court, made up of council members, interested officials, and members. The governor and his council in Jamestown are responsible to the Company.

The Crown licenses lotteries and one is established to raise funds for the Virginia Company.

The British establish a colony on the island of Bermuda.

**1613**

April 13. At Jamestown, Captain Samuel Argall and others who have captured Powhatan's daughter Pocohontas, bring her to Jamestown. Governor Sir Thomas Dale determines to keep her hostage until Powhatan releases captured Englishmen.

**1614**

Settlements branch into the interior. There are now four: Jamestown, Kecoughtan (Elizabeth City after 1621), Henrico, and Charles City. The term of the first indentured servants in Jamestown expires and they are now free laborers. Some return to England, while others remain to become tenant farmers.

John Rolfe arrives in Jamestown on the *Elizabeth*. He is one of the last group of survivors to arrive from Bermuda where the *Sea Venture* was wrecked. John Rolfe is the first in Jamestown to grow marketable tobacco after obtaining superior seed from the West Indies, where the Spanish have outlawed the sale of tobacco seed to other nations on penalty of death.







Indians are sometimes unable to supply the colony with food, or they grow impatient of repeated requests and refuse supplies. Governor Yeardley and a group of men kill twenty to forty Chickahominy Indians, and as a result the tribe draws closer to the Powhatan confederation.

photograph of a painting in the United States Capitol, copied from original by William Sheppard, dated 1616, at Barton rectory, Norfolk, England. Reproduction Number: LC-D416-18753. Library of Congress, Prints and Photographs Division, Detroit Publishing Company Photograph Collection.

The Company fails to win a monopoly in tobacco trade from the Crown. This would have made the Company and colony the sole importers of tobacco. James I, who has a strong distaste for the habit of smoking, opposes excessive cultivation of the crop. Tobacco exports grow from a total of twenty-five hundred pounds in 1616 to a total of fifty thousand pounds in 1628.

In London the Company creates a subsidiary joint-stock company called the "Magazine" or "Society of Particular Adventurers for Traffic with the People of Virginia in Joint Stock." This almost-completely-independent company receives a monopoly in supplying Jamestown and outlying settlements. Its director and courts meet separately from the Virginia Company's, and profits are returned to its investors alone.

November. Ending the first seven-year period, the Virginia Company attempts to issue dividends to its investors, but profits are so small that it distributes land in Virginia instead. The Company allows the establishment of private plantations, called "hundreds." Land grants are made to several of the Company's major adventurers. Thereafter, some people buy stock in the Virginia Company for the specific purpose of getting private land grants. After 1618, English settlement significantly encroaches on Indian lands, especially along the Chickahominy and James Rivers. Most of these encroachments are due to private land grants by the Company.

## 1617

March 21. Pocohontas dies of illness at Gravesend, England. While in England, her husband, John Rolfe, has written *A True Relation of the State of Virginia*, which puts a good face upon conditions in Virginia. [A Letter from John Rolfe to Edwin Sandys upon His Return to Virginia](#)

## 1618

April. Powhatan dies. About a year earlier he had ceded power to Opitchapan (or, Itopan), who was then succeeded by Opechancanough.

October 29. Sir Walter Raleigh is executed for treason in London, in part to satisfy the Spanish. In 1616, Raleigh had been paroled from the Tower of London, where he had been imprisoned since 1606. After his release, Raleigh had attacked a Spanish settlement in Orinoco, where he had been searching for "El Dorado," the fabled Indian leader of a city of gold. The expedition a failure, Raleigh then sailed north along the Carolina coast and Chesapeake Bay and on up to Cape Cod and the mouth of the Kennebec River before sailing home to face trial and execution.

December. The Company's instructions to the Colony's new governor, George Yeardley, recognize tobacco as a medium of exchange.

This year, Virginia Company officials in London discover that rather than yielding a profit, the original investment of seventy-five thousand pounds has been almost entirely lost.

This year begins what is called the "Great Migration," which by 1623 brings the population of the Virginia colony to forty-five hundred.

## 1619

April 23. Sir Edwin Sandys, a west English merchant with leanings toward Puritanism, is elected treasurer of the Virginia Company at a quarterly court. John Ferrar is deputy treasurer. Sandys calls for a decrease in tobacco cultivation, the creation of industries, such as the reestablishment of the glassworks and saltworks, which had fallen away, the production of naval stores, an ironworks, sawmill, silkworming, and vineyards. He calls for the cultivation of subsistence crops and of the neglected Company or "public" lands in Virginia. Women are recruited in London to come to the colony and marry. Sandys's predecessor and political enemy, Sir Thomas Smith, becomes head of the Bermuda Company. When Sandys's laudable projects fail, he becomes vulnerable to attacks.

April. Governor Sir George Yeardley is empowered to charge and try Governor Samuel Argall for neglect of duty and malfeasance. Yeardley had been governor from April 1616 to May 1617 and was then succeeded by Samuel Argall, who had returned from England. Argall had established harsh martial law during his tenure, which had caused adverse publicity for the Company in London. Yeardley assures colonists that in Virginia they shall enjoy the same rule of common law as in England. The Company has instructed him to establish a legislature, settle disputes about private land patents, regularize the relationship between private plantations, or hundreds, and the Company, and to re-cultivate



the Company or public lands. Instructions to Governor Yeardley.

July 30-August 4. The first legislative assembly meets in Jamestown, in the choir of the church. None of the Assembly's laws are official unless ratified by one-fourth of the Company's Court. Guided by the Company's instructions, the Assembly passes measures to encourage the production of wine, hemp, flax, and, above all, an adequate food supply. The cultivation of tobacco is restricted. Colonists have complained about the high prices charged by the Magazine, and the Assembly limits its profits to twenty-five percent. Other measures address social behavior, such as idleness, drunkenness, gambling, and the wearing of apparel beyond one's social station. Seven private plantations, or hundreds, are represented in this first Assembly. John Pory, A Reporte of...the General Assembly Convented at James City, July 30-August 4, 1619

John Rolfe, who has returned from England, becomes a member of the Council. He marries Jane, the daughter of Captain William Pierce.

Summer. Unceasing torrid heat adds to the crop, food supply, and health problems of the Virginia settlements. There are about a thousand people living in the Virginia colony.

August. The first African slaves are brought to Virginia by Captain Jope in a Dutch ship. Governor Yeardley and a merchant, Abraham Piersey, exchange twenty of them for supplies. These Africans become indentured servants like the white indentured servants who traded passage for servitude. John Rolfe to Edwin Sandys, Jan 1619/20, "About the latter end of August..."

The duty-free status of the Company and the colony ends. The Crown now expects to derive revenue from the Colony in the form of custom duties.

Opechancanough replaces Itopatin as leader of the Powhatan confederation.

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[Edward] Kettle Charleston (1878-1944) "Seed of Liberty - The Story of the American

Colonies" (Indianapolis: Bobbs-Merrill Company, c. 1919)

Reprint (Mar 2007)

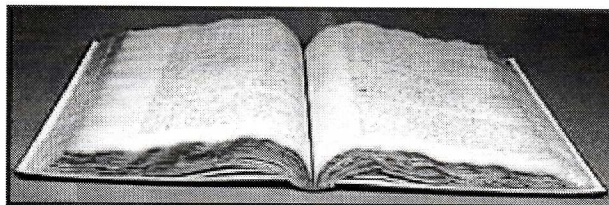
Excellent summary of Bagshaw's role.

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The Virginia Records volumes were part of Jefferson's personal library. These volumes were very fragile when Jefferson first collected them, can only be handled with the greatest care today, and are generally not



made available for researchers except in microfilm format. Their presentation here, online, makes this unacknowledged treasure widely available to the public for the first time in an easily accessible format.

Virginia Records

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**Virginia Records - Manuscript Volumes**

Volumes 1 through 15 and volume 21 were among the nearly 6700 volumes Jefferson sold to Congress in 1815. Volumes 16 through 20 were acquired by the Library of Congress in 1829 from Jefferson's grandson, Thomas Jefferson Randolph, as part of the settlement of Jefferson's estate. Volume 1 may be an original manuscript, while almost all of the remaining twenty volumes are contemporaneous seventeenth- and eighteenth-century transcriptions of originals, many of which do not survive.

The Virginia Records were digitized from microfilm and the images enhanced for



increased legibility. Original volume 3, Abridgment of the Common Law, undated, is severely damaged and illegible in the original, and was not digitized. Volumes in Series 8 were renumbered. ([Digitizing the Collection](#)).

**Manuscript  
Volume 1**     **Thomas Mathew. The Beginning, Progress and Conclusion of Bacon's Rebellion in Virginia in the Years 1675 & 1676. 1705.**

Manuscript.

Text. Jefferson's transcription as published in installments in the Richmond Virginia *Enquirer*, September 1, 5, and 8, 1804.

Thomas Mathew, a contemporary observer of Nathaniel Bacon's rebellion in Virginia, wrote this account in 1705. Rufus King of New York, while ambassador to the court of St. James in London, purchased this volume and sent it to Jefferson with a December 20, 1803 letter. The volume King purchased may have been the original manuscript or a seventeenth- or eighteenth-century transcript of the original. Upon receiving the volume, Jefferson made his own exact transcription of Mathew's account of Bacon's Rebellion and arranged for its publication in the Richmond, Virginia *Enquirer*.



Detail of [[Nathaniel Bacon, three-quarter length portrait, seated, facing right](#)]

created/published  
[between 1760 and  
1800]. Library of

Congress Prints and Photographs Division.  
Reproduction Number: LC-USZ62-91133

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**Manuscript  
Volume 2**     **John Mercer. Abridgement of the Public Acts. 1737.**

John Mercer (1704-1768) of Marlborough, Virginia was George Washington's lawyer. His son, John Francis, studied law with Jefferson.

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Manuscript    **Virginia. Opinion of Learned Counsels. 1681-1722.**  
Volume 3

Opinions of Counsel on Affairs Related to the Colony of Virginia, 1681-1721.

Opinions of Nathaniel Pigot of Middle Temple and Sir John Randolph, King's Attorney in Virginia, 1693-1722.

Jefferson acquired this and volumes 5, 10, and 21 when he purchased the library of Peyton Randolph (1721-1775) in 1776. Peyton's father, Sir John Randolph (1693-1736), was an avid collector of Virginia documents and had hoped to write a history of the colony. He left his fine library of books and manuscripts to his son Peyton.

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Manuscript    **Sir John Randolph. Commonplace Book. 1680.**  
Volume 4

Sir John Randolph (1693-1736) of Henrico was Speaker of the House of Burgesses and the King's Attorney in Virginia. His son Peyton Randolph (1721-1775) also held those offices and was Thomas Jefferson's mentor in the House of Burgesses in the 1760s and '70s.

This commonplace book provided alphabetically arranged printed subject headings, under which one was supposed to enter relevant thoughts or extracts from literature or poetry. Sir John Randolph apparently did not find all of these subject headings compelling as there are numerous blank pages.

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Manuscript    **Virginia. Laws and Orders Concluded on by the General**  
Volume 5       **Assembly. March 5, 1623/24.**

Early eighteenth-century transcript. Originally owned by John Randolph, it was acquired by Jefferson when he purchased the library of Randolph's son Peyton.

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**Manuscript  
Volume 6**      **Charters of the Virginia Company of London; Laws; Abstracts of Rolls in the Offices of State. 1606-92.**

"The Bland Manuscript."

Jefferson acquired this volume of seventeenth-century transcripts of the charters and fundamental documents in the history of the Virginia Company and colony in 1776 when he purchased the extensive library of Richard Bland (1710-1776), a member of the Virginia House of Burgesses and avid collector of historical documents and books. (The Company's charters can also be found in volume 14.)

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**Manuscript  
Volume 7**      **Virginia Council and Assembly. Laws. March 2, 1642/43 - March 23 1661/62.**

Early eighteenth-century transcript. Acquired by Jefferson in 1776 as part of the library of Richard Bland.

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**Manuscript  
Volume 8**      **Virginia Assembly. Laws. 1652-60.**

Thomas Jefferson made this transcript from texts compiled by Virginia lawyer John Mercer of Marlborough (1704-1768). A seventeenth-century holograph index is bound in at front.

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**Manuscript  
Volume 9**      **Virginia. Laws. March 23, 1661/62 - August 14, 1702.**

"Charles City Manuscript."

This manuscript volume originated in the clerk's office of Charles City, which by 1614 was one of several outlying settlements in Virginia. Jefferson wrote George Wythe on January 12, 1796 that he had found it in "Lorton's tavern" in Virginia, where it was being used as "waste paper." One of these waste paper uses was practicing writing and drawing. The volume pages show fancy signatures, drawings of birds and animals, and other fanciful scribbles overlaying the text of the original.



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**Manuscript  
Volume 10**     **Virginia. Laws. December 23, 1662 - October 21, 1697.**

"The Peyton Randolph Manuscript."

Originally owned by Sir John Randolph, and then by his son Peyton, whose library Jefferson purchased in 1776. The contents of this volume are nearly identical to those of volume 9, the "Charles City Manuscript."

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**Manuscript  
Volume 11**     **Virginia. Laws. October 25, 1705.**

"Charles City Manuscript."

Jefferson received this manuscript volume from "Mr. Debnam," Charles City clerk.

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**Manuscript  
Volume 12**     **Virginia General Assembly. Laws. October 25, 1705 - November 7, 1711.**

"The John Page Manuscript."

Jefferson received this volume from his lifelong friend John Page of Rosewell, Virginia, whose grandfather Mathew Page was a commissioner for the revision of Virginia laws in 1705.

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**Manuscript  
Volume 13**     **Virginia Company of London and the Colony. Miscellaneous Papers. 1606-92.**

"Instructions, Commicons letters of Advice and admonitions and Publique Speeches, Proclamations. &c."

Jefferson acquired these seventeenth-century transcripts when he purchased Richard Bland's library in 1776. This volume contains copies of the Company's charters and the colony's correspondence.

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**Manuscript  
Volume 14**     **John Pervis. A Complete Collection of all the Laws of Virginia now in force. March 23 1661/62 - November 10, 1682.**

"Carefully Copied from the Assembly Records. To which is annexed an Alphabetical Table." Printed sometime between 1683 and 1687, this volume contains manuscript notes in the margins, possibly in a seventeenth-century hand. A manuscript continuation has been added at the end. According to Jefferson, this volume originally belonged to Colonel William Byrd, who gave it to John Wayles, Jefferson's father-in-law, "whose library came to my hands" (Jefferson to George Wythe, January 12, 1796).

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**Manuscript  
Volume 15**     **Virginia General Court. Cases, with Minutes. 1622-29.**

The first two parts of this volume are law cases, 1622-26 and 1626-29, and the third contains Virginia Court Book minutes. Jefferson had an impressive collection of Virginia law books, of which this was one. Beginning in 1807, Jefferson made this and many other volumes available to William Waller Hening, clerk of the Chancery Court in Richmond, for his compilation *The Statutes at Large; being a collection of all the laws of Virginia, from the first session of the legislature, in the year 1619* (Richmond, 1809-23).

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**Manuscript  
Volume 16**     **Virginia Company of London. Court Book. Part A. April 28, 1619 - May 8, 1622.**  
**Manuscript  
Volume 17**     **Virginia Company of London. Court Book. Part B. May 20, 1622 - June 7, 1624.**

These volumes are the only contemporaneous surviving copy of the Court Book of the Virginia Company of London, which established the Jamestown colony in 1607. The Court Book for the earlier period, 1606-18, does not survive in any form.

On May 9, 1623, the Crown appointed a commission to investigate the Virginia Company's financial affairs and sequestered its papers. Before the papers were turned over to the Privy Council, Company deputy Nicholas Ferrar had them copied. The Company lost its charter as a result of the investigation and by 1630 had ceased to exist. Where the original Court Book and Ferrar's copy of it went

thereafter is unknown.

Jefferson believed that the Court Book ended up in the hands of the Earl of Southampton, a member of the Company and an ally of Edwin Sandys, treasurer during the period covered by the Book, and that it was then purchased from Southampton's executor in London by one of the Byrd family. It was a part of the third William Byrd's library when he died in 1777.

On October 4, 1823, Jefferson wrote Hugh P. Taylor that he had acquired the Court Book as part of his purchase of Richard Bland's library. Jefferson did not include the Court Book in the nearly 6700 volumes he sold to Congress in 1815. The Library of Congress acquired it later in 1829 from Jefferson's grandson, Thomas Jefferson Randolph.

In addition to the manuscript volume, a published edition of the Court Book is available in *Records of the Virginia Company*.

**Correlating the Published Edition (volumes I & II) with the Virginia Records Manuscripts (volumes 16 & 17)**

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**Manuscript Volume 18** **Virginia Executive Council. Transactions. December 9, 1698 - May 20, 1700.**

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**Manuscript Volume 19** **Virginia. Foreign Business and Inquisitions. 1665-76.**

This volume contains depositions in regard to maritime prizes and cases of escheat, in which land reverts to the Crown, state, or feudal lord upon the death of a tenant without heirs or succeeding grantees. Also included are copies of correspondence between Virginia government officers and Maryland and Georgia governors.

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**Manuscript**     **Virginia. Miscellaneous Records. 1606-26.**  
**Volume 20**

The volume includes contemporaneous copies of correspondence between the Privy Council in London and the governor and Council in Virginia. It contains the Company's "A Declaration of the present State of Virginia humbly presented to the Kings most excellent Matie [Majestie] by the Company for Virginia," April 12, 1623, and other statements presented in 1624 when the Company was under investigation; laws passed and petitions received by the Virginia General Assembly; and contemporaneous copies of the Company's 1606 and 1609 charters.

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**Manuscript**     **Virginia. Laws, Commissions, and Proclamations. October 16,**  
**Volume 21**     **1629 - August 21, 1633.**

Originally owned by Sir John Randolph and acquired by Jefferson when he purchased the library of his son Peyton.

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### ***Records of the Virginia Company - Published Edition***

*Records of the Virginia Company*. Edited by Susan Myra Kingsbury. Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, Volumes I and II, 1906; Volumes III and IV, 1933, 1935.

**Published**     **The Court Book. 1619-1622**  
**Edition**     **The Court Book. 1622-1624**  
**Volume I**  
**Published**  
**Edition**  
**Volume II**

Volume I is a published edition of the manuscript [volume 16](#), the Court Book, Part A, and volume II is of the manuscript [volume 17](#), the Court Book, Part B.

**[Correlating the Published Edition \(volumes I & II\) with the Virginia Records Manuscripts \(volumes 16 & 17\)](#)**

to read.

The preface of *Records of the Virginia Company* provides a list of the most commonly used abbreviations. This page is made accessible here to view or print for ready reference.

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## Thomas Jefferson Papers Series 8. Virginia Records Manuscripts. 1606-1737.

Susan Myra Kingsbury, editor. Records of the Virginia Company, 1606-26, Volume III: Miscellaneous Records -- [Table of Contents](#)

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# The Records of The Virginia Company of London

EDITED BY

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BRYN MAWR COLLEGE

VOLUME III

UNITED STATES  
GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE  
WASHINGTON : 1933

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### Preface

The documents contained in Volumes III and IV of the Records of the Virginia Company of London are original papers, official and other, of the company or relating to it. While the Court Book of the Virginia Company, published as Volumes I and II of this series, presents minutes of the meetings of the corporation, the succeeding volumes contain materials that vivify its decisions and decrees, explain the difficulties met and overcome by that redoubtable group of adventurers, reveal the petty jealousies of the administrators, and especially record the controversy between the company and the Crown that resulted in the dissolution of the corporation and the creation of the first crown colony of Great Britain.

Four official sets of records are herein printed or cited. Two are published in full. One set is the original papers contained in the volume, now preserved in the Library of Congress, which has long been referred to as "Manuscript Records of the Virginia Company, Volume III." One set embodies records of action in law courts by the company or against the company. They are taken from the records of the various British courts and were found in the Public Record Office. Two sets are not here included as originally planned. They have been published in full since this series was begun. One is the "Courte Booke" of the colony, February 4, 1622/23, through February 9, 1632/33. It is now printed under the title "Minutes of the Council and General Court of Colonial Virginia," edited by Dr. H. L. McIlwaine (Richmond, Va., 1924). The other set of documents has been published in the "Acts of the Privy Council, Colonial", volume I (London, 1908). Some actions of the council that concerned the Virginia Company of London are not to be found in that publication. They are therefore here printed. The collection called the Sackville Papers, discussed in the Introduction to the *Records of the Virginia Company*, Volume I, page 114, was, by the courtesy of the third Lord Sackville, examined by Prof. A. Percival Newton, of the University of London, and the documents relating to Virginia were printed in 1922 in the *American Historical Review*, Volume XXVII, pages 493 to 538 and 738 to 765. Those bearing dates earlier than 1623 are not here reprinted.

Included in this volume are manuscripts from two collections that are unique. The "Smyth of Nibley" papers give the history of a single settlement, called Smyth's (or Smith's) Hundred, that is typical of the various hundreds of the colony. They extend from February 3, 1618/19, to August 1, 1622, inclusive. These papers are all in the New York Public Library. The "Foster Papers" on the other hand, now belong



THE NEW YORK PUBLIC LIBRARY. ASTOR LENOX TILDEN FOUNDATION. ON THE OTHER HAND, NOW BELONG-  
ing to Magdalene College, Cambridge University, are a veritable gold mine; their  
unique value is discussed in the Introduction to the Records of the Virginia Company,  
Volume I. They supply a vast amount of information through the correspondence  
between the colony and individual planters of the colony and Sir Edwin Sandys,  
Nicholas Ferrar, and John Ferrar, and also between Sir Edwin Sandys and the other  
officials of the company. Only a few documents are official, including two reports  
from the council in Virginia, a record of a Somers Islands court, and some less impor-  
tant items of this type. The first paper bears the date June 8, 1617, and the last  
November 1, 1624. But only a few go beyond midsummer of 1622.

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VIII

### PREFACE

On the other hand, the "Manuscript Records of the Virginia Company, Volume III," do not begin until August 12, 1621, but continue throughout the life of the company. They differ in character from the Smyth or Nibley Papers and the Ferrar Papers. As stated above, they record official acts of the council in Virginia and include commissions, proclamations, orders, laws, letters to and from the council in London, and petitions to the governor and council in Virginia.

Communications between the company and the King or the privy council, and some letters to and from the governor and council of the colony, were spread on the minutes of the company, and therefore appear in Volumes I and II, of this series. They are not reproduced in Volumes III and IV, even though the original documents are found in the other collections.

All documents here published are discussed at length in the Introduction to Volumes I and II of this series. Practically every paper indicated as to be included in the series by the star affixed in the "List of Records" that appears in the Introduction to Volume I is here printed. Two documents (List of Records No. 70 and No. 153) could not be found, and it has proved impossible to secure a copy of No. 12.

Fifty-seven documents dating earlier than April 28, 1619, when the records in Volume I begin, are printed in this volume. They include all records that had not heretofore been known or published by Alexander Brown, the Virginia Magazine of History, or other reliable works on the early history of Virginia. Perhaps the most important documents found by the editor that are here included are the "Instruções Orders and Constituções to Sr Thomas Gates knight Governor of Virginia" of May, 1609, and the "Instructions orders and constituções . . . to . . . Sr Thomas West knight Lo: La Warr," 1609/10, by the Virginia Council. These are the first instructions given by the competent authority to a British colony.

Source material for the history of the company through the year 1622 is presented in this volume. March 22, 1622, saw the frightful massacre of colonists by the Indians. The story of that tragedy, the efforts for recovery, and the beginning of the reestablished colony conclude this volume.

The editor wishes to make acknowledgment to Prof. J. Franklin Jameson, chief of the division of manuscripts in the Library of Congress, for his painstaking care in

reading the proof to the original documents of the "Manuscript Records of the

reading the proof to the original documents of the "Manuscript Account of the Virginia Company, Volume III," and to some of the photostats of material in England, and also for his constant watchfulness in seeing the documents through the press.

To Marian Carter Anderson the editor is indebted for her valuable and expert assistance in preparing much of the manuscript, and especially in the difficult reading of practically all of the proof.

Helen Kingsbury Zirkle has prepared the index of Volume III, and to her the editor wishes to express gratitude for the complete and accurate contribution she has made to the usefulness of the documents in historical research.

A part of the expense for reading the proof and the cost of preparing the index were met by a grant from the Social Science Research Council.

SUSAN M. KINGSBURY.

JUNE 30, 1932.

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### Table of Explanation

~ over a word indicates a contraction or an omission of letters.

\* \* \* \* \* indicate an unintelligible word or part of a word in the manuscript, there being approximately as many asterisks as letters in the word.

[ ] inclose words or letters which are doubtful in the manuscript; also, in a few instances, inclose words or letters reduplicated in the manuscript.

[ ] inclosing words in italics indicate explanations by the editor; also, in a few instances, italics indicate letters supplied by the editor to complete a word.

A line drawn through a word or a part of a word indicates a word or letters canceled in the manuscript.

|| || inclose words interlined in the manuscript by the reviewer.

§ § inclose words interlined in the manuscript by the copyist.

#### SIGNS AND ABBREVIATIONS.

ēon indicates tion.

Co<sup>t</sup> indicates Court.

lre, lres indicate letter, letters.

ʰ indicates pound.

ll<sup>r</sup>, ll<sup>s</sup>, Lo indicate Lords, Lord.

Lo<sup>ps</sup>, ll<sup>ps</sup> indicate Lordships.

M<sup>ty</sup>, Ma<sup>ty</sup> indicate Majesty's, Majesty.

o<sup>r</sup>, yo<sup>r</sup> indicate our, your.

p indicates per, par, e. g. p<sup>vse</sup> (peruse).

p indicates pro.

p̄ indicates pre, pri, e. g. p̄uately (privately).  
q̄ indicates que.  
T̄fer, Th̄ier indicate Treasurer.  
w<sup>tt</sup> indicates weight.  
9 indicates omission of letters or syllable, most often of er, e. g. man<sup>9</sup>  
(manner).  
€ indicates final es or et, e. g. hand€ (handes).

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*RECORDS OF THE VIRGINIA COMPANY*

yow expect to be done haue so slowe pgressse. The Gou<sup>o</sup>no<sup>r</sup> hath stayed the Dutch[<sup>l</sup>b]men yet awhile to see if any fitt water may be found for their tourne (for yet they meete with none) ffor to send them home without doeinge that they were sent for would tourne to yo<sup>r</sup> dishonours and the Countries discredit. In the mean tyme they are so disheartned with the entertaynment they finde here, that they are growne very ympatient of stay. And these men when they fall to worke, must haue all their help from the Companies people: and it may ffall out to be in such a place that all yow haue yet will not satisfie. And §how§ shall they doe that and look after their own lyvelihood? The Collony will afford no help toward<sup>e</sup> it, since (as they say) the benefitt thereof goes to y<sup>e</sup> Company. I am in a strait. How so many people sent hither of late yeers haue bene lost, I cannot Conceauue vnles it be through water and want, partly of good foode, but cheifly of good Lodginge: w<sup>ch</sup> haue bene the onely Causes of the death of so many as came with me, if the Concept of their 7. years servitude did not help them on: w<sup>ch</sup> Course, I am of opinion, yow should doe well to alter. The half yeere, for w<sup>ch</sup> onely wee were victualled, since our landinge, is now allmost expyred; sure I am, our pvisions are expended, and yet wee here of no supplie. In so much that yf the Edwin had not stood vs in some stead by fetchinge vs corne forth of the Bay (wher now we haue good and free trade) wee had bene distrest. ffor yo<sup>r</sup> pvisions fall exceedinge short, w<sup>ch</sup> is not my Complaint alone.

ffor myne owne part I will be bold to say that none could ever be more honestly or thriftily issued, yet if many men had not died wee had bene longe since in want. I ymmagine I should haue wronged my self and abused the Company, if I had not said somethinge in my Tres concerninge Huddlestone, in whom you haue bene deceaued, for he ys a dissemblinge Companion. I haue giuen yow but a touch of his behavio<sup>r</sup> out of my respect to M<sup>r</sup> Deputy: with whom I haue dealt freele. Though he