

By 1700, the Virginia colonists had made their fortunes primarily through the cultivation of tobacco, setting a pattern that was followed in territories known as Maryland and the Carolinas.

Regarding politics and religion: by 1700 Virginia and Maryland, known as the Chesapeake Colonies, differed considerably from the New England colonies.

[Official names: Colony and Dominion of Virginia (later the Commonwealth of Virginia) and the Province of Maryland]

The Church of England was the established church in Virginia, which meant taxpayers paid for the support of the Church whether or not they were Anglicans. We see a lower degree of Puritan influence in these colonies, but as I have mentioned in class previously, even the term “Puritan” begins to mean something else by 1700. In the Chesapeake, Church membership ultimately mattered little, since a lack of clergymen and few churches kept many Virginians from attending church on a regular basis, or with a level of frequency seen in England. Attending church thus was of somewhat secondary importance in the Virginia colony and throughout the Chesapeake region, at least when compared to the Massachusetts region.

Virginia's colonial government structure resembled that of England's county courts, and contrasted with the somewhat theocratic government of Massachusetts Bay and other New England colonies.

And again, they are Theocratic - a government based on religion. Now even though they did not attend church as regularly as those living in England, this does not mean that religion did not play a **very** important role in their lives. For example, people would cite a prayer to know how long it took to make a certain stitch when making a quilt, and people often incorporated passages from the Christian bible into their art. So please keep in mind that these people are very religious.

Regarding government: everyday tasks were typically handled by royal governor-appointed justices of the peace, who set tax rates and saw to the building and maintenance of public works, such as bridges and roads in the Chesapeake Colonies.

In the 1650s, the colonial assembly adopted a bicameral pattern: **the House of Burgesses (the elected lower house comprised of members of Virginia society) and an appointed Governor's Council.** This assembly met regularly, and they often intervened in local disputes. But they did not convene on the matters of representative government, that is, to decide what was best for the colony. Instead, they convened most frequently for the opportunity to raise taxes on the colonists.

The Chesapeake Colonies, Maryland and Virginia, grew slowly from 1607 to 1630 due to the low-lying, swampy environment that we previously discussed. Stagnant water, human waste, and salt poisoning produced a mortality rate of 28 percent to 85 percent even after the worst winter hit them in 1610. Within three years of coming to the colony, 40 to 50 percent of the indentured servant population, who made up the majority of the population, died from typhus, and before finishing their contracts.

[Now keep this in mind for Bacon's Rebellion (1676). How would this impact that event?]

By the end of the seventeenth century, settlement patterns tended toward the healthier Piedmont area of Virginia, an area further away from the marshes and swampland. With this, and the importation of slaves directly from Africa, we begin to see a boost in population after 1700.

[The first slaves arrived by the Dutch in 1619 with 20 or so Africans whom the captain had stolen from a Spanish ship. **Records from 1623 and 1624 list them not as slave property, but as indentured servants,** and subsequent records show a large "free black" population. Aside from these records, however, it has been confirmed that the first "Black" listed on paper as a "slave" landed in Virginia in 1640. In this document, the court ordered the African captive to "serve his master or his assigns for the time of his natural life here or elsewhere."]

Back to the Chesapeake... As the tobacco colonies' population increased, so did their production of tobacco, their principal source of revenue and currency. Plantations along the waterways of Maryland and Virginia extended almost 200 miles in length and varied from 3 to 72 miles in width, which gave oceangoing ships access to almost 2,000 miles of waterways for transporting loads of tobacco. Soon, ship captains searched throughout Chesapeake Bay

for the larger planters' wharfs with storehouses and factories to buy tobacco for merchants. Small planters also housed their crops at these large wharfs. This made tobacco trade increase dramatically by the end of the seventeenth century.

In addition to tobacco, planters in the Chesapeake turned to corn and wheat production after the year 1700, crops which would sustain the booming population of the area.

The county seat of the Chesapeake region remained the central aspect of local government, yet it generally held only a courthouse, an Anglican church, a country store, and a number of homes. There were few "large" cities at this time, as they had no need for them.

Culture tended to be less radical in the Chesapeake than territory in the New England colonies. A sense of oblige was conserved within the church government and the militia, and books and pamphlets imported from London helped them retain a higher level of English culture and a sense of civic responsibility.

#### THE FOUNDING OF MARYLAND (1634)

The second significant Chesapeake colony was Maryland. Maryland was founded on a grant which was given to a man named Cecilius Calvert, Lord Baltimore, who named the land for Queen Henrietta Maria, the Catholic wife of Charles I.

Lord Baltimore planned for Maryland to serve as a haven for English Catholics who suffered political and religious discrimination in England, but few Catholics actually settled in the colony. The inexpensive land attracted Protestants that Baltimore, whose purchases helped Baltimore pay his debts. Baltimore granted his friends the largest estates, which resembled medieval manors and paved the way for the plantation system in this region.

At first, relations between Maryland's Catholics and Protestants seemed amicable. For a time they even shared the same chapel. In 1649, under Baltimore's urging, the colonial assembly passed the **Act of Religious Toleration**, the first law in the colonies granting freedom of worship, albeit only for Christians.

By 1654, however, with Maryland's Protestants comprising the majority, the act was repealed. A near civil war broke out and order was not restored until 1658, when Lord Baltimore was returned to power.

Religious squabbles continued for years in the Maryland colony, and we will return to this when we examine the colonies in the seventeenth century further in the course.

#### CHESAPEAKE SOCIETY AND ECONOMY

Tobacco was the mainstay of the Virginia and Maryland economies, as we have mentioned before. As a result, most of the action was around the waterways where the tobacco was harvested.

New England's Colonies were a land of towns and villages surrounded by small farms, yet large plantations and diminutive urban development characterized the Chesapeake Colonies of Virginia and Maryland. The emphasis on indentured labor and, later, African slavery, meant that relatively few women settled in the Chesapeake colonies. So women were a larger percentage of the population up north.

(When we discuss the Salem witch trials, please keep this in mind.)

A lower female population, combined with the high mortality rate from disease regarding the climate—diseases such as malaria, dysentery, and typhoid—slowed population growth considerably in the Chesapeake.

[The one common link between New England and the Chesapeake, however, was their treatment of the Natives. As we previously discussed, Bacon had been very cruel to the Native Americans, and so did the Puritans beginning in the second half of the 17<sup>th</sup> century.]

#### INDENTURED SERVANTS AND SLAVES

Early in the seventeenth century, the statuses of a slave and an indentured servant were quite similar. Beginning in 1640, however, we see a proliferation of slavery. And later, in 1660, the Chesapeake colonies enforced laws that defined slavery as a lifelong and inheritable condition based on race.

This made slaves profitable because planters could rely not only on their labor but also their children for a future generation of workers.

The slave population, which numbered about four thousand in Virginia and Maryland in 1675, grew significantly to the end of the century.

## RESTORATION COLONIES

**Restoration Colonies** were all granted by Charles II to men who had helped him reclaim the throne, and they were a way for Charles to have a firm hand in the New World.

The first of these were first called the Province of Carolina. They get their name comes from the Latin version of Charles, (Carolus).

The Carolinas originally included the land from the southern border of Virginia to Spanish Florida, and was given to eight proprietors in 1663 known as the “Lords Proprietors of Carolina”. This formed the Province of Carolina:

Eight men formed the Lords Proprietors:

George Monck, 1st Duke of Albemarle (1608-1670)

Edward Hyde, 1st Earl of Clarendon (1609-1674)

John Berkeley, 1st Baron Berkeley of Stratton (1607-1678)

William Craven, 1st Earl of Craven (1608-1697)

Sir George Carteret (c.1610-1680)

Sir William Berkeley (1606-1677)

Sir John Colleton, 1st Baronet (1608-1666)

Anthony Ashley Cooper, 1st Earl of Shaftesbury (1621-1683)

Settlers from Virginia soon came into the northern part of the Carolina territory in the 1650s, bringing with them the tobacco culture. Small-scale farming and the export of lumber and pitch (tar), much in demand by English shipbuilders, were the basis of the economy and allowed the area to prosper.

North Carolina became a separate colony in 1691, with many people in the area angry at the way the Lords Proprietors governed the region.

The division between North Carolina and South Carolina became complete in 1712, but both colonies remained in the same group of proprietors until 1719, when an uprising led to a separate royal governor being appointed in 1720, but this soon led to uprisings as well.

[They are first listed as North and South Carolina by the Crown of England in 1729.]

In the south, however, where the proprietors focused their interest, things took a different turn. **Rice** became the staple crop by the 1690s and because its production was extremely labor intensive, African slaves were imported in droves to drain the swampland and work the rice fields.

Their reliance on slaves is not surprising: not only was the supply of indentured servants limited now, but also many of these early settlers in the Carolinas came from the English colonies in the Caribbean, most notably from Barbados, where slavery was well established on sugar plantations.

Like many Restoration Colonies, South Carolina attracted diverse religious and ethnic groups. In addition to colonists from Barbados, who were mostly Anglicans, there were German Lutherans, Scotch-Irish Presbyterians, Welsh Baptists, and Spanish Jews. We see the most diversity, at first, in South Carolina.

But this mix did not promote stability. Relations with the natives in the region often turned violent, as European settlers enslaved native tribes as well as Africans. The inability of the proprietors to maintain order led to South Carolina eventually becoming a royal colony in 1729, an effort to maintain stability in the region.

**[Restoration Colonies also included Pennsylvania, Connecticut, and Rhode Island]**

## FROM NEW NETHERLAND TO NEW YORK

### New York

The Dutch established two trading posts in 1614: one on Manhattan Island and one to the north on the Hudson River at Albany's present location. A

decade later, the newly formed Dutch West India Company set up the first permanent settlements, the most important of which was New Amsterdam on Manhattan; it became the capital of “New Netherland”.

Although the fur trade stimulated Dutch expansion into Delaware and the Hudson River Valley, farming was considered vital to making the colony self-sufficient. Under the patron system, individuals who brought fifty settlers along with livestock and farm implements to the colony received very large tracts of land.

Administration of New Netherland was in the hands of governors appointed by the **Dutch West India Company**. The colonists had little loyalty to these often corrupt and dictatorial officials, and when the English fleet appeared off the island of Manhattan in 1664, little resistance was offered.

This was not a sign that the Dutch welcomed English takeover, however. The two countries had been engaged in a series of wars for commercial supremacy; [in fact, the Dutch won the colony back briefly during the Third Anglo-Dutch War in 1673]. Nevertheless, New York, renamed for its new proprietor, James, Duke of York, became an English royal colony in 1685.

## **New Jersey**

New Jersey was based on land grants made in 1664 by the Duke of York to Sir John Berkeley and Sir George Carteret, two of his favorite supporters. Small farming settlements that were in fact religious and ethnic enclaves of Anglicans, Puritans, Dutch Calvinists, Scottish Presbyterians, Swedish Lutherans, and Quakers predominated. The colony was divided into West and East Jersey by the proprietors in 1676 and was not reunited until 1702, when it reverted to direct royal control.

## **Delaware**

The first important settlement in Delaware was founded in 1638 by the New Sweden Company, a joint-stock company with Swedish and Dutch investors. But this Swedish outpost in the New World was short-lived. The colony first passed to the Dutch (1655), who could trace their claims to Henry Hudson's voyage, and then to England (1664). In 1682, Delaware was made part of

William Penn's proprietorship and remained under the political control of the governor of Pennsylvania until the American Revolution.

### **Georgia, the last English colony**

Georgia (named for George II) was carved out of territory originally part of South Carolina as a buffer against the Spanish in Florida and as a place where the poor of Europe could get a new start. The trustees, to whom the land was granted, most important of whom was James Oglethorpe, envisioned a colony of prosperous small farmers and imposed regulations to bring this about. The land was nearly given away, but no one could own more than five hundred acres and the sale of land to other colonists or the bequeathing of farms to women heirs was prohibited. Slavery was also banned here.

The trustees brought over anyone willing to work, making Georgia England's most cosmopolitan colony with German, Swiss, Austrian, Italian, and Jewish settlers. However, over time, strong opposition to the land-holding restrictions inevitably arose.

All limitations were abolished by 1759, by which time Georgia had become an official a royal colony under control of the British Crown.

And we will discuss these colonies next week.