

BOUNDLESS IN HIS POWER

*A History of God's working in
JAMESTOWN,
as told by those who founded it*

Volume One

Compiled by R. A. Sheats

Boundless in His Power: A History of God's working in Jamestown, as told by those who founded it

First printing, 2012

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Give ear, O my people, to my law;
Incline your ears to the words of my mouth.
I will open my mouth in a parable:
I will utter dark sayings of old,
Which we have heard and known,
And our fathers have told us.

We will not hide them from their children,
Shewing to the generation to come
The praises of the LORD, and His strength,
And His wonderful works that He hath done.

For He established a testimony in Jacob,
And appointed a law in Israel,
Which He commanded our fathers,
that they should make them known to their children:

That the generation to come might know them,
even the children which should be born;
who should arise and declare them to their children:
That they might set their hope in God,
and not forget the works of God,
but keep His commandments.

— Psalm 78:1-7

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“The truth is this: The march of Providence is so slow and our desires so impatient; the work of progress is so immense and our means of aiding it so feeble; the life of humanity is so long, that of the individual so brief, that we often see only the ebb of the advancing wave and are thus discouraged. It is history that teaches us to hope.”

— Robert E. Lee

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*Throughout the current volume all illustrations
of the American Indians are shown clothed.
This portrayal is an intentional inaccuracy
which has been deemed necessary for decency's sake.*

Pronunciation Guide

Opechancanough — ō pe can' kə nō

Powhatan — pow' ə tan

Werowocomoco — ware ə wō kō mō' kō

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A NOTE ON THE TEXTS

In compiling *Boundless in His Power*, it has been the author's endeavor to provide the modern reader with easily understood yet accurate texts of historical documents (letters, charters, writings, etc.), in concert with a vision to achieve ease of readability while still preserving the integrity of the original documents. Due to the fact that much time has passed between the writing of these documents and the present day, however, a difficulty may be encountered by the modern reader in the comprehension of these texts because of their archaic language or grammar. For example, the original of the first charter of the Virginia Company of London (1606) reads in part:

Whereas our loving and well disposed subjects . . . haue been humble sutors vnto vs that wee woulde vouchsafe vnto them our licence to make habitacion plantaion and to deduce a Colonie of sondrie of our people into that parte of America commonly called Virginia and other parts and territories in America either appertaining vnto vs or which are not nowe actuallie possessed by anie Christian Prince or people scituate lying and being all along the sea Coastes . . .

wee greatly commending and graciously accepting of their desires to the furtherance of soe noble a worke which may be the providence of Almightye God hereafter tende to the glorie of hys divyne maiestie in propagating of Christian religion to suche people as yet live in darkenesse and myserable ignorance of the true knowledge and worshippe of god and may in tyme bring the infidels and salvages lyving in those partes to humane civilitie and to a setled and quiet govermente doe by these our lettres Patentes graciously accepte of and agree to their humble and well intended desires

The difficulty modern readers may experience as they attempt to read and comprehend such a passage is no doubt apparent. Because of this, certain methods of assisting the reader in the understanding of these historic writings have been adopted:

SPELLING AND GRAMMAR

Though faithfulness to the original texts has been strictly maintained, it has been generally deemed prudent to conform spelling, capitalization, and punctuation to modern standards, though occasionally it has been thought best to preserve the original orthography for stylistic or other purposes. It has at times also been found necessary to add a word or phrase to assist in the comprehension of a particular passage. When this has been resorted to, added words have been set off from the original text by the use of brackets, thus allowing the reader to easily distinguish between the primary document and the compiler's additions.

If the reader wishes to obtain a copy of an original document in its true form (without modern spelling, punctuation, capitalization, etc.), recourse may be had to the primary sources themselves, as listed in the Appendix.

FOOTNOTING

Because of the strictness employed in adhering to the original phraseology and verbiage of the documents in *Boundless in His Power*, a concern was raised that a difficulty might be encountered by the modern reader in properly comprehending the meaning of a given document. This difficulty would arise from the fact that the English language has changed over time, thus causing much confusion and ambiguity in reading. It has therefore been determined to define archaic words and expressions by footnoting. Using dictionaries hailing from previous centuries as well as authoritative modern dictionaries, concise yet clear definitions have been added to assist in reading comprehension.

HISTORICAL ACCURACY AND YOUNG CHILDREN

Because the present volume deals extensively with the American Indians, the compiler has been constrained to carefully edit the accounts employed in order that the book may be suitable for young children: the American Indians of Jamestown and its surrounding area were very active in devil worship and other like atrocities; they delighted in torture and brutality to an unspeakable degree. Most references to these practices have therefore been removed in order that this volume may be read to the youngest of ears.

However, due to this expunging, it became apparent that a woefully inaccurate picture of the Indians was portrayed in the current volume, and it was feared that this would further the prevailing historical misconception that the American Indians were a gentle, peace-loving people. Therefore, fearful that the reader would be completely misled regarding the actual nature of the Indians, one (comparatively mild) account of their barbarity has been included in the text (page 63, paragraph 3), as well as a note on their child sacrifices in the appendix (page 145, paragraph 3). The page numbers are given here in order that parents may skip these passages if so desired.

If a further study of the true nature of the American Indians is desired, recourse may be had to the unedited original documents, as listed in the Appendix.

Lastly, please note that the texts employed in this volume are not a comprehensive collection of material from the time in question. For a more detailed study of the founding of Jamestown and the people involved therein, please see *Works Cited* in the appendix as well as other original documents of the time.

CHAPTER ONE

To Virginia

The year was 1584. Nearly a hundred years had elapsed since Christopher Columbus first sailed to the 'New World,' and at last Europe was awakening to the vast continent of America. Already Spain had begun colonizing the southern latitudes of this seemingly immeasurable region, and France was busy in its attempts to populate the north.

The country of England, however, appeared to have fallen woefully far behind its neighbor powers of Europe. Though ever watchful of France and Spain's explorations, very little had been done by Britain to commence its own colonization of America.

As one European nation after another sent ships and colonists to the New World, many within the Christian nation of England watched with sorrow. Many reasons occasioned this emotion within the people of Britain: should not England also join within the exploration and settling of the vast new world of America? Riches were to be found in that great wilderness, as Spain had already discovered to their profit, and was it not also possible that a passage to the South Sea might be discovered as well?

Though these thoughts engaged many within England, another motive caused perhaps the deepest sorrow of all within that Christian nation: was not the country of America inhabited by a heathen people, untouched by the Light of the Gospel? And were not both Spain and France Roman Catholic nations? If these countries continued in their attempted colonization, would not the heathen inhabitants of this new continent be given up to the shackles of religious superstition and the vain traditions of popery?

This thought, plaguing the hearts of the faithful of England, was reiterated by Richard Hakluyt, a British preacher, who strove to call his country to aid in the furtherance of the Gospel by planting a colony in America. Writing of the Catholics of his day, Hakluyt sorrowfully admitted:

I myself have been demanded of them: "How many infidels have been by [the British] converted?" . . . Yet, in very deed, I was not able to name any one infidel by [us] converted.

Despite this admission, Hakluyt was not deterred from his aim of spreading the glorious Gospel of his Lord, as he continues:

"But God," quoth I, "hath His time for all men, who calleth some at the ninth, and some at the eleventh hour.¹ And if it please Him to move the heart of her Majesty [Queen Elizabeth] to put her helping hand to this godly action [of colonizing America], she shall find as willing subjects of all sorts as any other prince in all Christendom."

¹ A reference to the parable of Matthew 20.



Queen Elizabeth, the virgin queen, after whom was named the land of Virginia

Just as Hakluyt hoped and prayed, the Lord had His time for the settling of America, and soon prepared the hearts of both the British people and their princes to begin the colonizing of America (or, as it was known in England, Virginia). In His own perfect time, God called forth a man to issue a call to his country, England, to journey to America to preach the Gospel. The man's name: Richard Hakluyt himself.

Though now an older man, the Lord had been preparing Hakluyt for this purpose from his very youth. Even as a young man God had endued Hakluyt, not only with a fervor for the Word of God, but also with a passion for exploration and the spread of the Gospel throughout the kingdoms of the earth. This passion was first kindled when Hakluyt was but a young lad, as he records:

I do remember that, being a youth and one of her Majesty's scholars at Westminster (that fruitful nursery), it was my hap² to visit the chamber of Master Richard Hakluyt, my cousin, . . . at a time when I found lying open upon his board³ certain books of cosmography,⁴ with a universal map. He, seeing me somewhat curious in the view thereof, began to instruct my ignorance by showing me the division of the earth . . . He pointed with his wand⁵ to all the known seas, gulfs, bays, straits, capes, rivers, empires, kingdoms, dukedoms, and territories of each part, with declaration also of their special commodities and particular wants, which by benefit of traffic⁶ and intercourse of merchants are plentifully supplied.



² **hap** – chance

³ **board** – table

⁴ **cosmography** – the study of the world or universe

⁵ **wand** – rod

⁶ **traffic** – trade



An English Bible of 1539

From the map he brought me to the Bible and, turning to the 107th Psalm, directed me to the twenty-third and twenty-fourth verses, where I read that “they which go down to the sea in ships and occupy by the great waters, they see the works of the Lord and His wonders in the deep,” etc. Which words of the Prophet, together with my cousin’s discourse (things of high and rare delight to my young nature), took in me so deep an impression that I constantly resolved, if ever I were preferred to the University (where better time and more convenient place might be ministered for these studies), I would by God’s assistance prosecute⁷ that knowledge and kind of literature, the doors whereof (after a sort) were so happily opened before me.

As he grew, Hakluyt studied the explorers of his day as well as those of days gone by. Reading the original accounts of these explorations in numerous languages, he translated them into his mother tongue and published them for the benefit of his English-speaking countrymen.

As Hakluyt pursued his studies, his mind turned time and time again to the far-distant continent of America, a continent—for the most part—still unknown and unreached by Christian

peoples. Hakluyt’s heart yearned for the spread of the Gospel among the savages in these unknown regions and, after years of labor, in 1584 he published a work entitled A Discourse Concerning Western Planting. A massive volume, Hakluyt’s book was a call to his country to send forth laborers into the field of America, to plant colonies there in order to reach the Indians with the Gospel of Christ:

Seeing that the people of that part of America . . . are idolaters [and worship] the sun, the moon, and the stars, and used other idolatry, . . . it remaineth to be thoroughly weighed and considered by what means and by whom this most godly and Christian work may be performed of enlarging the glorious Gospel of Christ and reducing of infinite multitudes of these simple people that are in error into the right and perfect way of their salvation.

The blessed Apostle Paul, the converter of the Gentiles, [in] Romans 10 writeth in this manner, ‘Whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved. But how shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher? and how shall they preach except they be sent?’

⁷ prosecute – pursue



A printer's shop in Hakluyt's day

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Map of the World, 1611

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Then it is necessary for the salvation of those poor people which have sitten so long in darkness and in the shadow of death that preachers should be sent unto them. . . .

Now the means to send such as shall labor effectually in this business is by planting one or two colonies of our nation upon that firm,⁸ where they may remain in safety, and first learn the language of the people near adjoining, . . . and so with discretion and mildness distill into their purged⁹ minds the sweet and lively liquor of the Gospel. . . . [Our principal desire is] the gaining of the souls of millions of those wretched people, the reducing of them from darkness to light, from falsehood to truth, from dumb idols to the living God, from the deep pit of hell to the highest heavens.

. . . So they that shall bear the name of Christians shall shew themselves worthy of their vocation, so shall the mouth of the adversary be stopped, so shall contention amongst brethren be avoided, so shall the Gospel among infidels be published. . . .

We shall by planting there enlarge the glory of the Gospel, and from England plant sincere religion, and provide a safe and sure place to receive people from all parts of the world that are forced to flee for the truth of God's Word.

For over twenty years Richard Hakluyt awaited an answer to his call. At long last it arrived: in April of 1606 a group of British gentlemen formed a joint-stock company in London and petitioned King James, requesting of him permission to begin a settlement in America; Hakluyt was a member of this company.

James liked the idea, soon came to terms with the gentlemen (who came to be known as the Virginia Company of London), and granted them a charter authorizing them to begin colonizing America. The opening lines of the Virginia Charter (April 10, 1606) read:

James, by the grace of God King of England, Scotland, France, and Ireland, Defender of the Faith, etc.

Whereas our loving and well-disposed subjects, Sir Thomas Gates and Sir George Somers,



British Coat of Arms

⁸ *i.e.*, land

⁹ **purged** – cleansed, purified



James I, King of England

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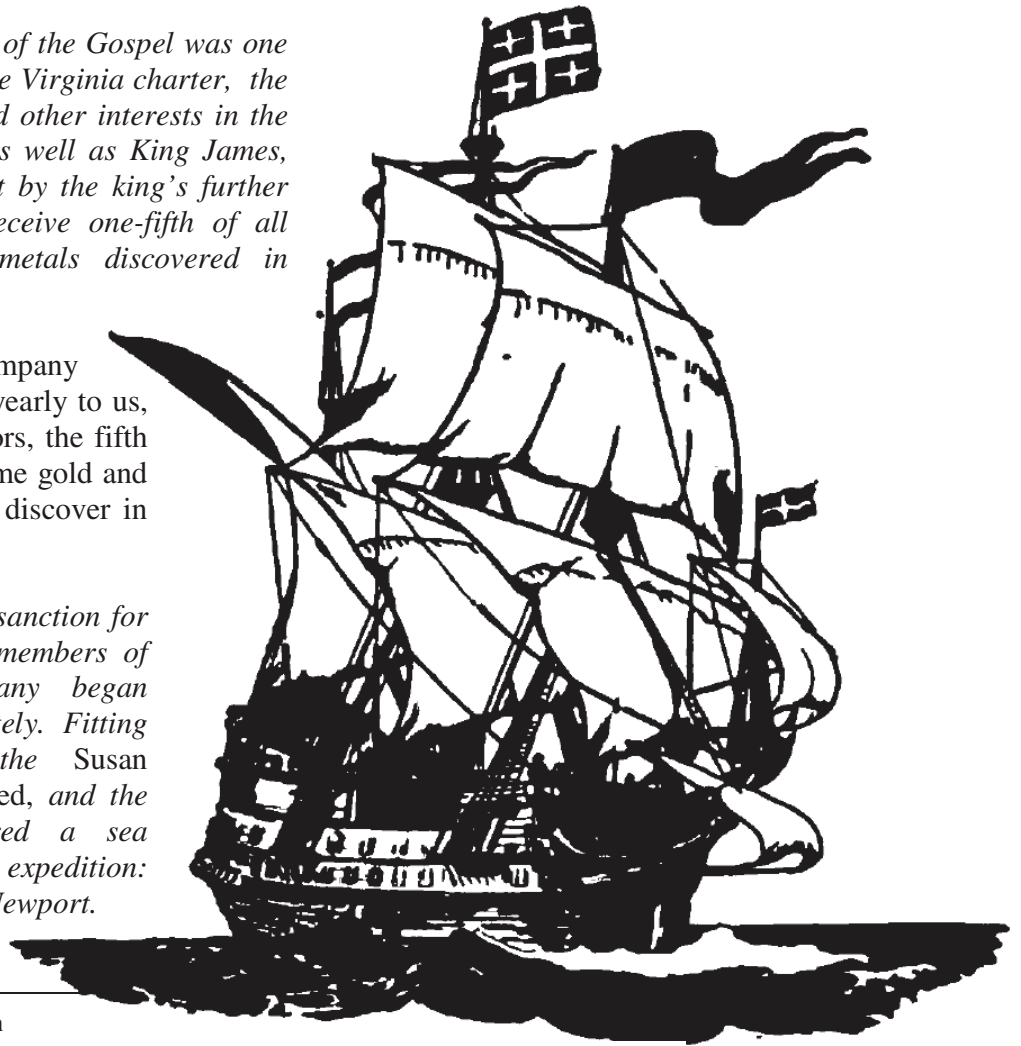
knights, Richard Hakluyt, clerk, prebendary¹⁰ of Westminster, and Edward Maria Wingfield, . . . and divers¹¹ others of our loving subjects, have been humble suitors unto us that we would vouchsafe¹² unto them our license to make habitation, plantation, and to deduce¹³ a colony of sundry¹⁴ of our people into that part of America commonly called Virginia . . .

We, greatly commending and graciously accepting of their desires to the furtherance of so noble a work which may, by the providence of Almighty God, hereafter tend to the glory of His Divine Majesty in [the] propagating of *Christian* religion to such people as yet live in darkness and miserable ignorance of the true knowledge and worship of God, and may in time bring the infidels and savages living in those parts to human civility and to a settled and quiet government, do by these our letters patents¹⁵ graciously accept of and agree to their humble and well intended desires; . . .

Though the spreading of the Gospel was one matter addressed in the Virginia charter, the Virginia Company had other interests in the settling of America, as well as King James, as is readily apparent by the king's further stipulating that he receive one-fifth of all gold and precious metals discovered in Virginia:

[The Virginia Company shall yield] therefore yearly to us, our heirs and successors, the fifth part only of all the same gold and silver [that they shall discover in Virginia].

After obtaining royal sanction for their endeavors, the members of the Virginia Company began preparations immediately. Fitting out three ships, the Susan Constant, the Godspeed, and the Discovery, they hired a sea captain to lead the expedition: Captain Christopher Newport.



The Susan Constant

¹⁰ **prebendary** – clergyman

¹¹ **divers** – various

¹² **vouchsafe** – yield, condescend

¹³ **deduce** – plant

¹⁴ **sundry** – various

¹⁵ **letters patents** – papers bestowed by a sovereign ruler, conferring upon someone an exclusive right to land, etc.



The Godspeed

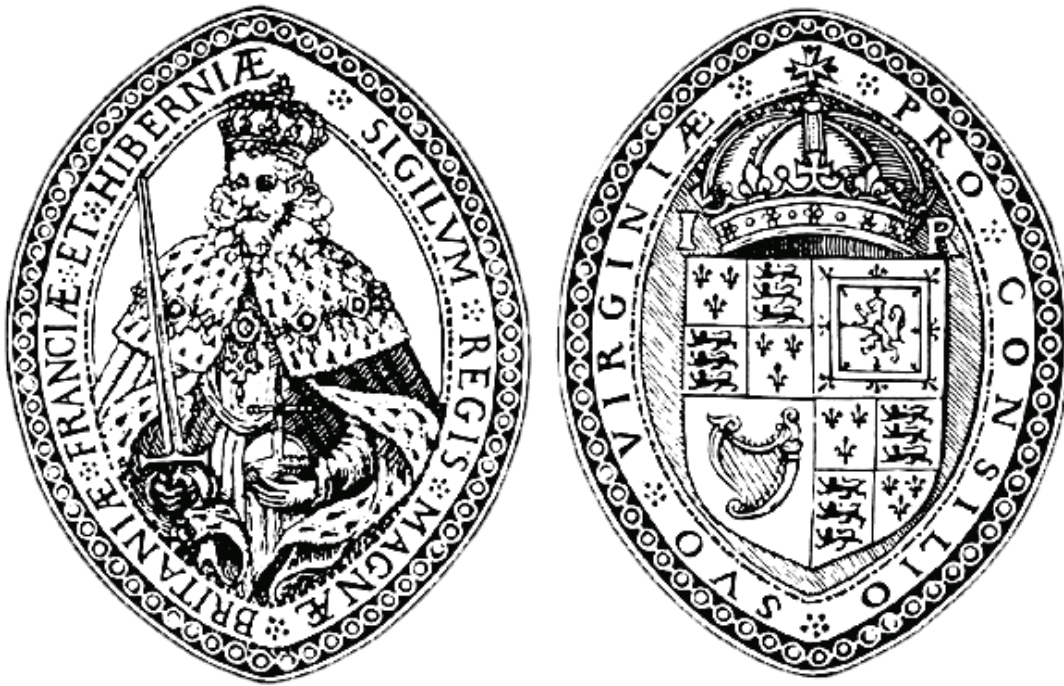
The Virginia Company was soon bustling excitedly as supplies were purchased for the voyage, goods were procured to be used in the new country, and men were found who volunteered to join the expedition and travel to America to begin the colony. Hakluyt himself was not idle, but spent his time aiding the expedition in any way he could. Ere long he settled one of the most important matters at hand: the location of a pastor to accompany the expedition. Hakluyt chose the Reverend Robert Hunt for this office, a man noted for his orthodoxy and godly character.

While gathering supplies and hiring captains for their ships, the Virginia Company of London also wrote 'Articles, Instructions, and Orders' to define what the colonists were to do and how they were to govern themselves once they reached Virginia. The settlers were to be ruled by a Council, composed of a select few of the colonists. This

Council would elect a president from among their number who should govern for one year. In the event that this president or other members of the Council did not fulfill their duties and obligations properly, the Virginia Company ordered that they be removed from office:

We do further hereby establish and ordain that it shall be lawful for the major part¹⁶ of either of the said¹⁷ councils, upon any just cause, either absence or otherwise, to remove the president or any other of that Council from being either president or any of that Council, and upon the deaths or removal of any of the presidents or Council, it shall be lawful for the major part¹⁸ of that Council to elect another in the place of the party so dying or removed, so always as¹⁹ they shall not be above thirteen of either of the said Councilors, and we do establish and ordain that the president shall not continue in his office of presidentship above the space of one year.

The Virginia Company was also concerned for the spiritual well-being of their colonists, as well as those native inhabitants who might chance to dwell near them. They therefore ordered that the colony continue faithfully in the preaching of and obedience to the Word of God, and that their savage neighbors also be introduced to the Christian Religion:



Seal of the Virginia Company of London

¹⁶ *i.e.*, the majority

¹⁷ **said** – before-mentioned

¹⁸ *i.e.*, the majority

¹⁹ *i.e.*, as long as

And we do specially²⁰ ordain, charge, and require the said²¹ presidents and Councils, and the ministers of the said several²² colonies . . . that they, with all diligence, care, and respect, do provide that the true Word and service of God and Christian faith be preached, planted, and used, not only within every [one] of the . . . colonies and plantations, but also [preached] as much as they may amongst the savage people which do or shall adjoin unto them or border upon them, according to the doctrine, rights, and religion now professed and established within our realm of England. . . .



A further concern of the Virginia Company was the proper treatment of the inhabitants of Virginia. Continuing in their 'Articles, Instructions, and Orders,' they consequently stipulated that justice and Christian charity be employed in all dealings with the savages:

Furthermore, our will and pleasure is (and we do hereby determine and ordain) that every person and persons [of our colonies shall] . . . well-entreat those savages in those parts, and use all good means to draw the savages and heathen people . . . to the true service and knowledge of God, and that all just, kind, and charitable courses shall be holden²³ with such of them as shall conform themselves to any good and sociable traffic²⁴ and dealing with the subjects of us, our heirs, and successors, which shall be planted there, whereby²⁵ they may be the sooner drawn to the true knowledge of God. . . .

[We do hereby ordain that those who transgress this command shall suffer] such severe pains and punishments as shall be inflicted by the same several presidents and Councils of the said²⁶ several colonies, . . . on such as shall offend therein or do the contrary.

²⁰ **specially** – particularly

²¹ **said** – before-mentioned

²² **several** – separate

²³ **holden** – held

²⁴ **traffic** – trade

²⁵ **whereby** – by which means

²⁶ **said** – before-mentioned

While the Virginia Company was preparing to send their first colonists to Virginia, they were being watched by countless eyes. The settlement of a colony in a new country attracted much attention, though not all was friendly. Don Pedro de Zuñiga, the Spanish ambassador in England, noted every move taken by the British Company with heightening suspicion. Spain had laid claim to Florida, and guarded jealously any intrusion into what they deemed 'their' continent of America. They were therefore indignant and antagonistic to any attempt at British settlements in that land.

Zuñiga, ever loyal to his country, used his position in England to gather information on the proposed venture in Virginia, and sent his findings—encoded—to Philip III, king of Spain. Excerpts of his decoded letters regarding the Virginia Company follow:



Philip III, King of Spain

March 16,²⁷ 1606

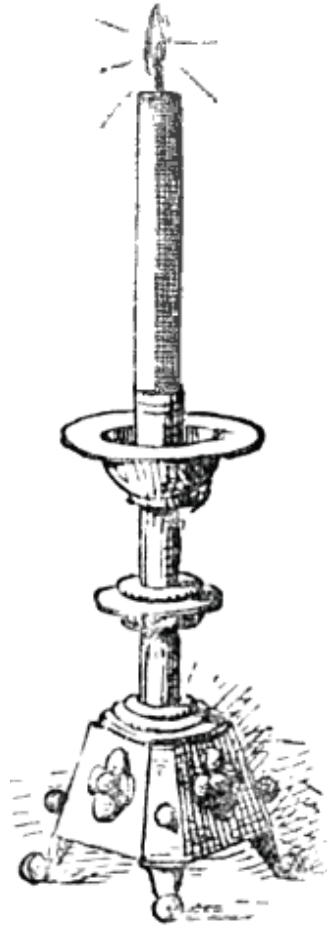
Sire, . . .

[The Virginia Company] propose to do another thing, which is to send 500 or 600 men, private individuals of this kingdom, to people²⁸ Virginia in the Indies, close to Florida. . . .

Since I have reported to your Majesty that the English were arming some vessels to send them to Virginia, this has been much in suspense, and now they have in great secrecy made an agreement that two vessels shall go to that place every month till they have 2000 men in that country, and they will do the same from Plymouth, so that there also two vessels are ready to sail.

They have agreed with the Rebels that they shall send all the people they can. The pretext which they assert is that the King over here has given them permission and his patents to establish their religion in that country, provided that they rob no one, under the penalty [that], if they do not obey, he will not take them under his protection.

He grants them leave to occupy any island within a hundred miles from the sea-coast . . . He commands



²⁷ By modern reckoning the date would be ten days earlier, *i.e.*, March 6.

²⁸ **people** – inhabit

that if they come to some river they must try to find the source of it, so that they might in this way come to open intercourse with the kingdom of China, which they desire much. . . .

Your Majesty will see what is useful for His Royal service, . . .

After Zuñiga's letter had been delivered to Philip III, he soon received a reply from his sovereign:

His Majesty the King of Spain to Don Pedro de Zuñiga Madrid, March 6, 1607

. . . You will report to me what the English are doing in the matter of Virginia (and if the plan progresses which they contemplated of sending men there and ships), and thereupon it will be taken into consideration here what steps had best be taken to prevent it.



A Spanish Galleon

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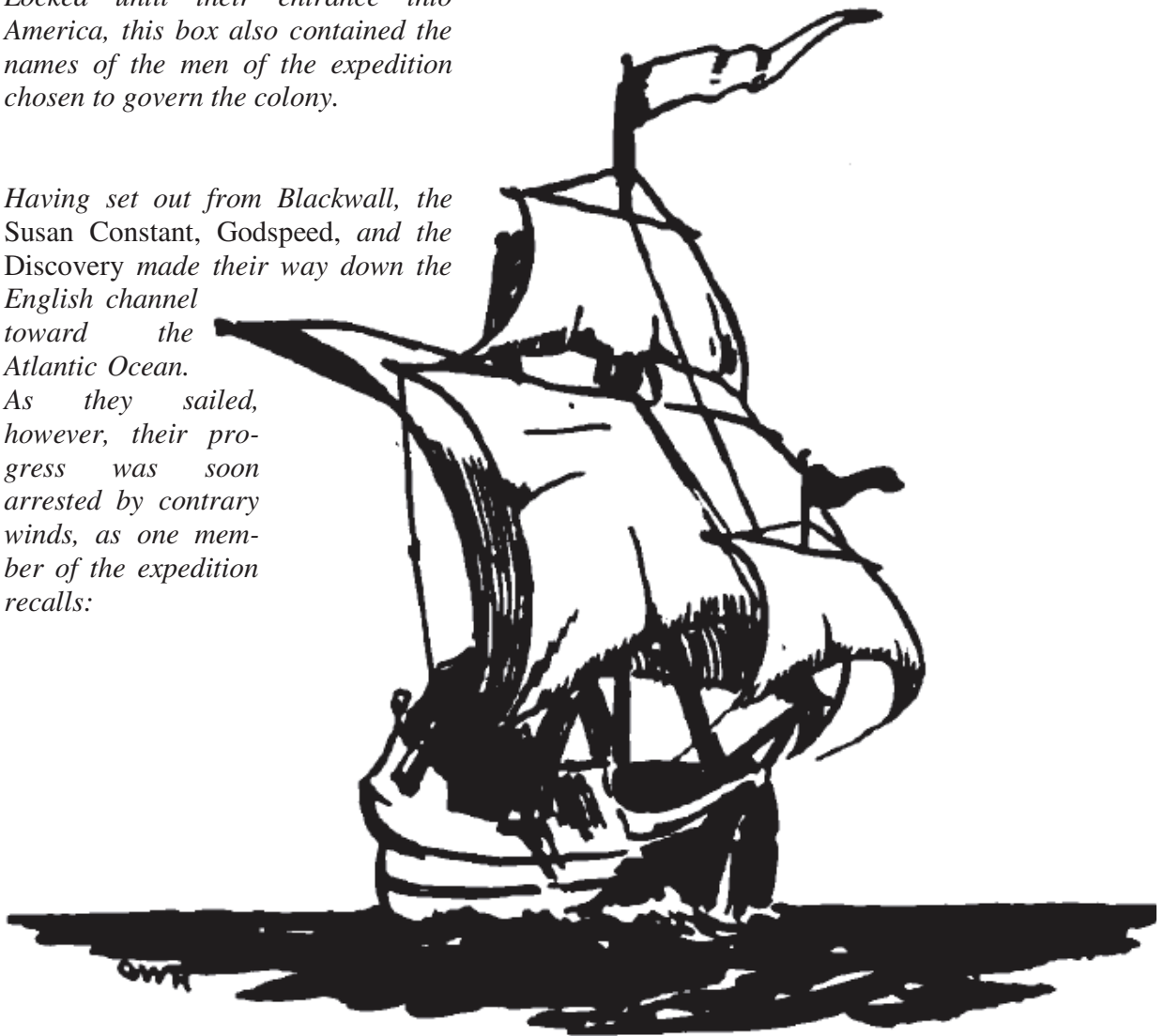
CHAPTER TWO

The New World

As the hostile and ever-vigilant eyes of Zuñiga and Philip III watched each move of the Virginia Company, three British ships were being fitted out and, on December 19th, 1606, they sailed out of port as they began their long trek to America. Headed by Captain Christopher Newport, this man was entrusted with a box containing papers from the Virginia Company giving instructions to be followed once the fleet arrived in Virginia. Locked until their entrance into America, this box also contained the names of the men of the expedition chosen to govern the colony.

Having set out from Blackwall, the Susan Constant, Godspeed, and the Discovery made their way down the English channel toward the Atlantic Ocean.

As they sailed, however, their progress was soon arrested by contrary winds, as one member of the expedition recalls:



The Discovery

. . . the fleet fell from London, and the fifth of January we anchored in the Downs; but the winds continued contrary so long that we were forced to stay there some time, where we suffered great storms, but, by the skillfulness of the Captain, we suffered no great loss or danger.

For six long weeks the small fleet waited out the stormy weather. The forced inactivity and foul weather caused tempers to flare within the cramped quarters aboard ship. Captain John Smith, a member of the expedition, writes:



On the 19th of December, 1606, we set sail, but by unprosperous winds were kept six weeks in the sight of England. All which time Master Hunt, our Preacher, was so weak and sick that few expected his recovery.

Yet, although he were but 10 or 12 miles from his habitation (the time we were in the Downs), and notwithstanding the stormy weather nor the scandalous imputations (of some few, little better than Atheists, of the greatest rank amongst us) suggested against him, all this could never force from him so much as a seeming desire to leave the business, but [instead he] preferred the service of God in so good a voyage before any affection¹ to contest with his godless foes, whose disastrous designs (could they

Captain John Smith

¹ affection – desire

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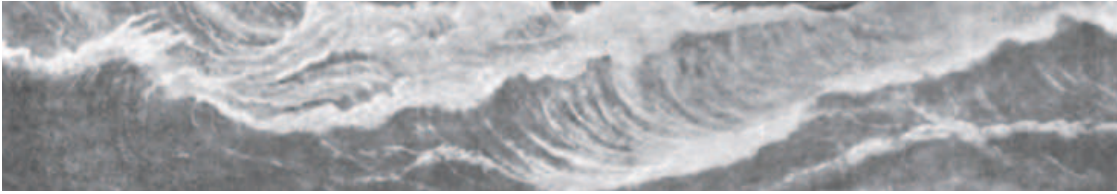
have prevailed) had even then overthrown the business. So many discontents did then arise [that], had he not with the water of patience and his godly exhortations (but chiefly by his true devoted examples) quenched those flames of envy and dissention, [the expedition would surely have failed].

The godly counsel and Christian example of Reverend Hunt allayed the quarrels and contentions aboard ship, and thoughts soon again turned to the destination of the voyage: Virginia.

At last the contrary winds ceased and the ships began their voyage to America. Crossing the Atlantic without incident, the fleet soon arrived within the vicinity of Virginia.

As the ships neared the long-awaited continent, hopes rose as the gentlemen and laborers aboard—anxious to be again standing upon firm ground—dreamed of the quickly approaching land. But, as days passed and no land appeared, even the sailors grew concerned, and arguments again sprang to life within the little fleet. Captain John Ratcliffe, the captain of the small ship Discovery, at length declared the expedition hopeless, and advised a return to England. Ready to abandon the endeavor before land had even been sighted, it appeared for a moment that the Virginia Company's hopes of a colony in the new world would never come to fruition. But God, it seems, had other plans, as one of the colonists writes:





[While sailing] in search of Virginia, the company was not a little discomforted, seeing the mariners had three days passed their reckoning and found no land, so that Captain Ratcliffe (captain of the pinnace)² rather desired to bear up the helm to return for England, than make further search. But God, the Guider of all good actions, forcing [the fleet] by an extreme storm to hull all night, did drive them by His providence to their desired port, beyond all their expectations, for never any of them had seen that coast.



The shores of Virginia

² **pinnace** – a small sailing vessel usually having two masts

The first land they made they called Cape Henry [after Prince Henry], where thirty of them, recreating themselves on shore, were assaulted by five savages, who hurt two of the English very dangerously.

That night was the box opened [from the Virginia Company in London], and the orders read, in which Bartholomew Gosnoll, John Smith, Edward Wingfield, Christopher Newport, John Ratcliffe, John Martin, and George Kendall were named to be the council, and to choose a president amongst them for a year, who, with the council, should govern. Matters of moment³ were to be examined by a jury, but determined by the major part of the council, in which the president had two voices.⁴



³ *i.e.*, importance

⁴ *i.e.*, two votes

After arriving in Virginia, the first order of business was to find a suitable place to begin a settlement. This was at last located on the 13th of May along the banks of the James River. The location was christened Jamestown in honor of the king. Colonist George Percy relates:

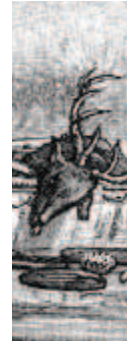
The thirteenth day [of May] we came to our seating place in Paspaha's country, . . . where our ships do lie so near the shore that they are moored to the trees in six fathom water.

The fourteenth day we landed all our men, which were set to work about the fortification, and others some to watch and ward as it was convenient.

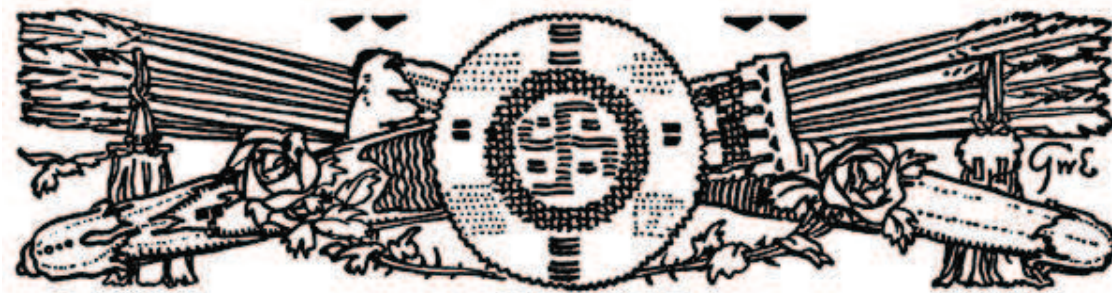


The first night of our landing, about midnight, there came some savages sailing close to our quarter. Presently there was an alarm given; upon that the savages ran away, and we [were] not troubled any more by them that night. Not long after there came two savages that seemed to be commanders, bravely dressed with crowns of colored hair upon their heads, which came as messengers from the Werowance⁵ of Paspaha, telling us that their Werowance was coming and would be merry with us with a fat deer.

The eighteenth day the Werowance of Paspaha came himself to our quarter with one hundred savages armed, which guarded him in a very warlike manner with bows and arrows, thinking at that time to execute their villainy. Paspaha made great signs to us to lay our arms away. But we would not trust him so far. He, seeing he could not have convenient time to work his will, at length made signs that he would give us as much land as we would desire to take.



When the Englishmen had at length settled upon a location for their fort, the Council met to elect a president, as another colonist recounts:



⁵ Werowance – chief, leader

Until the 13th of May they sought a place to plant⁶ in. Then the council was sworn, Mr. Wingfield was chosen president, and an oration made why Captain Smith was not admitted of the council as the rest.



During the long voyage to America, one of the contentions which had arisen aboard ship was an attack upon Captain John Smith's person, as colonist George Percy relates,

[During the voyage] Captain Smith was suspected for a supposed mutiny, though [there] never [was] no such matter.

Despite the falsity of the report, Smith was imprisoned until his arrival in Virginia, at which time it was discovered that the London Company had chosen him to be one of the Council in Virginia. Because of the rumored mutiny, however, it was decided to remove Smith from office and retain him under guard.

George Percy, a gentleman who accompanied the colonists to America, relates their arrival in Virginia and the first meeting with the savages:

The six and twentieth day of April, about four o'clock in the morning, we descried⁷ the land of Virginia. The same day we entered into the Bay of Chesapeake directly without any let⁸ or hindrance. There we landed and discovered⁹ a little way, but we could find

⁶ **plant** – settle

⁷ **descried** – discovered

⁸ **let** – delay

⁹ **discovered** – explored

nothing worth the speaking of but fair meadows and goodly tall trees, with such fresh-waters running through the woods as I was almost ravished at the first sight thereof.

At night, when we were going aboard, there came the savages creeping upon all four from the hills like bears, with their bows in their mouths, [and] charged us very desperately in the faces. [They] hurt Captain Gabriel Archer in both his hands, and a sailor in two places of the body very dangerous. After they had spent their arrows and felt the sharpness of our shot, they retired into the woods with a great noise, and so left us.



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