

THE THIRTEEN COLONIES

1. MARYLAND

In 1632 King Charles I subdivided the original Virginia colony. He granted a charter to George Calvert (Lord Baltimore) [a Catholic nobleman rewarded for service to the king] which covered either side of the Chesapeake Bay. He called the colony Maryland. Lord Baltimore was a Catholic and not only was financial gain a motive for the colony but Baltimore also wanted the area to be a safe-haven for Catholics persecuted by the Protestant British.

This was the first of several Proprietary Colonies, where the king had more total control of the daily affairs of the land. Like Virginia, many acres were developed for farming tobacco. In the beginning the labor force consisted of indentured white workers but in the later years of the seventeenth century slaves were brought in to do the work.

The first Lord Baltimore died before fulfilling his dreams

- a). Achieving great wealth
- b). Creating a safe haven for his fellow Catholics.

His son, Cecil Calvert took over in 1632 and in 1634 began following his father's plan.

Major events in Maryland's early history:-

The Act of Toleration – wealthy English Catholics emigrated to Maryland but were outnumbered by the poor Protestant farmers (who were the majority in Maryland's assembly). In 1649 the Act of Toleration was signed creating:-

- Religious freedom to all Christians
- Death to anyone who did not believe in Jesus

Protestant Revolt – In the 1600's the protestant majority had major resentments against the Catholics and there was a brief civil war in Maryland. The Act of Toleration was repealed and the Catholics lost their right to vote

2. VIRGINIA

In 1606 a Joint Stock company, the Virginia Company of London, received a charter from King James I of England for a settlement in the New World. The attraction was to find gold and a passage through the America to the East Indies. Despite Indian attacks and mosquito-infested areas on May 24th. 1607 about 100 male English settlers created Jamestown. The colony was unsuccessful as these settlers were "gentlemen" who did little or no hard labor, their only interest was finding gold. It was not until John Smith took over in 1608 that the colonists began to work for a living. The story tells that Smith was captured by the Powhatan Indians and saved by Pocahontas and a better relationship with the natives developed. Still many died from starvation and disease.

John Rolfe married Pocahontas (the first interracial union in Virginia). It was Rolfe who, in 1612, developed a way to better raise and cure tobacco, a cash-crop that would "save" the colony. In

1619 a Dutch warship sold twenty African slaves to the colonists, the first known instance of North American slavery. The same year Virginia formed a representative, self-government and the Virginia Company authorized the settlers to create an assembly, known as the House of Burgesses. It was a miniature parliament. However James I did not trust this government. James I did not like tobacco and in 1624 he revoked the charter of the Virginia colony (which was in a poor financial situation) and changed Virginia into a royal colony, directly under his control.

Economic, Political and Labor problems created conflict within this colony in the 1600's.

Economic Problems: The price of tobacco was low due to overproduction. The colony tried to raise its price to the British but to counteract these raises, the British raised the prices of their exports to Virginia. This caused inflation within the colony.

Political Problems: Sir William Berkeley became the royal governor of Virginia, the consequences being: -

- His policies favored the large planters and plantation owners
- The backwoods farmers were blamed for the many Indian attacks that took place

Nathaniel Bacon, a poor farmer, led a rebellion against Berkeley.

In 1676 Bacon raided and massacred Indian villages. Berkeley accused him of rebelling against his royal authority. Bacon and his followers then turned on Berkeley's army and defeated them. His army of farmers reached Jamestown and set it on fire. Shortly after Bacon died (dysentery) enabling Berkeley to put down the survivors.

Bacon's Rebellion

- 1). Highlighted the long lasting disputes between wealthy planters and poor farmers
- 2). Became the first colonial resistance to royal control.

Labor Problems: The Chesapeake colonies grew slowly due to:-

- Unhealthy climate, high death rate, disease and Indian attacks
- No women came to the colonies to settle as all of the men worked in the tobacco fields

To combat the severe labor shortages the colony utilized *Indentured Servants, The Headright System and Slavery.*

Headright System – Virginia offered 50 acres of land to:-

- a). Immigrants who paid their own way to America
- b). Plantation owners who paid someone's passage across the Atlantic in order to work the fields.

Slavery – In 1650 only 400 Africans lived in Virginia, not all of them were slaves but they were never 100% free.

3 + 4. PLYMOUTH AND MASSACHUSETTS BAY COLONIES

These lands were held by the Puritans who were intolerant of anyone who questioned their religious teachings. The most devout believed that only “visible saints” – persons who felt the stirrings of grace in their souls and could demonstrate it to their fellow Puritans – should be admitted to church membership. King James I was head of both the church and state of England and he believed that if his subjects could defy him as their spiritual leader then they could also defy him as their political leader.

The most famous of these dissidents departed for Holland in 1608 but did not settle. Instead they sailed for sixty-five days, originally heading for Jamestown but arrived off the coast of New England. In 1620 a total of 102 persons, led by Captain Miles Standish, settled at Plymouth Bay. Only 44 survived the first winter, but by Thanksgiving 1621 their first harvests were seen. Their new leader, William Bradford, a self-taught scholar who read Hebrew, Greek, Latin, French and Dutch began his thirty year rule as governor. By 1691 there were seven thousand colonists on Plymouth Bay.

The Massachusetts Bay colony was much larger and better equipped. During the Great British Migration of the 1630's about twenty thousand more, not all Puritans emigrated to Massachusetts Bay. The colony's first governor was John Winthrop. He accepted the position as his calling from God and created a prosperous fur, fishing and shipbuilding colony within his religious experiment.

Dissidents were banished from these colonies. Such non-conformists started the colonies of Rhode Island and Connecticut.

5. RHODE ISLAND

In 1631 **Roger Williams**, a Puritan from Massachusetts Bay openly stated that an individual's conscience is beyond church or civil control. This created immediate conflict between himself and the Puritan leaders. His opinions caused him to be banished from the colony so in 1636 he settled in Narragansett Bay and founded the city of Providence where:-

- He recognized the rights of native Indians and paid them rent for the use of their land
- He created a colony of Complete Religious Tolerance – faiths such as Catholics, Quakers, and Jews could worship freely.
- He founded one of the first Baptist churches in America

Around the same time another Puritan, Anne Hutchinson also questioned the Puritan beliefs. She stated that faith alone, not deeds, was necessary for salvation (ANTINOMIANISM). She was banished in 1638 and subsequently founded a colony in Portsmouth (next to Providence). Later on she moved to Long Island but was killed during an Indian uprising.

In 1644 Williams was granted a charter from the English parliament and joined Providence and Portsmouth into one colony – **Rhode Island**, where there was religious freedom for all!

6. CONNECTICUT

This colony was founded as another home for unhappy Puritans. In 1636 the Reverend Thomas Hooker founded Hartford. He and his followers drew up *the first written Constitution in U.S History*. The **Fundamental Orders of Connecticut** was signed in 1639. It created: -

- A Representative Government
- A Legislature elected by a popular vote
- A governor chosen by the legislature

In addition, another ex Puritan, John Davenport, founded New Haven in 1637. Although not yet part of Connecticut, Davenport kept close ties with the government of Connecticut.

7. NEW HAMPSHIRE

Hoping to increase royal control over the colonies King Charles II separated New Hampshire from the Massachusetts Bay colony in 1679. He made New Hampshire a Royal Colony – subject to the authority of an appointed governor.

Two Important events in the development of the New England colonies

1. Halfway Covenant

In the 1660's the new, native-born generations changed their ways of thinking. These young people were not becoming members of the Puritan church. In certain areas the Halfway Covenant was seen. Some clergy were now offering limited religious commitment in order that the young people could take part in church services and related activities without making a formal declaration of their total belief in Christ. In some areas this plan worked but in others, where there was strict Puritan control, it failed.

2. The New England Confederation

This was a military alliance formed to protect against the Indians, French and the Dutch. The English civil war meant that there was no military support for the Plymouth, Massachusetts Bay, Connecticut and New Haven settlements in the 1640's. In addition, the long sailing time from the mother country meant that help was not quickly forthcoming. The above colonies created this confederation and mostly dealt with three day to day issues:-

- Boundary disputes
- Runaway servants
- How to deal with the Native Indians

This association lasted until 1684 and clearly showed that the colonies were now taking action toward a common purpose. In addition the Confederation was forced to deal with the chief of the Wampanoag's, Metacom. Nicknamed King Philip, in 1675 and 1676 he began to attack local villages and towns. The New England Confederation fought back and thousands, on both sides, were killed in the fighting. Eventually the colonial forces won, **King Philip's War** was over when Metacom was killed. This was the last uprising to be seen in New England.

The Restoration Colonies as they became known are the remainder of the Thirteen Colonies. Founded in the late 17th century they received their name from the British *Restoration Period* when the civil war between Charles II ended with his victory over the Puritan Oliver Cromwell. The Carolinas were formed by eight (8) British nobles who helped Charles II regain power in England. They received the area of land between Virginia and Spanish Florida. In 1729 North and South Carolina were formed as Royal Colonies.

8. SOUTH CAROLINA

Created by Charles II of England in 1670 after the king granted to eight of his court favorites, the Lords Proprietors, an expanse of wilderness stretching from the Atlantic to the Pacific oceans. By 1670 there were only a few colonists living here along with planters from British owned Barbados in the West Indies. They mostly hunted furs and grew food for the islands in the West Indies. In the 18th century there were rice plantations formed, the labor used being African slaves. A better rice plant was created and this crop soon became the principle crop for the colony; rice was an exotic food in England and an excellent “bulk-food” for the slave markets. African slaves already knew how to grow rice so demand for their labor rose rapidly.

Through the port of Charleston (Charles Town) the colony had close ties to the sugar plantations in Barbados. In addition Manacled Indians were captured and taken from the colony and put into slavery in the sugar cane fields and mills. Some Indian slaves were sent to Rhode Island (1730 records showed over 200). As Charleston developed many French Protestants settled to escape persecution at home. This upset the Spanish Catholics who resided in Florida and many skirmishes took place between the people of South Carolina and a mixture of Spanish and Native Indian armies. However by 1700 Charleston was too well established and withstood any attacks.

9. NORTH CAROLINA

This area was originally settled by people moving down from Virginia and New England. Most of the populations were poor farmers who tried to grow tobacco for a meager profit. Located between the aristocratic colonies of Virginia and South Carolina, North Carolina was officially separated from South Carolina in 1712 and became a Royal Colony.

It became similar to Rhode Island: Those who did settle looked for autonomy from British rule and by the 18th century showed very strong democratic views against the royal system of government.

North Carolina has only a few harbors, poor inland transportation routes and only a few plantations so there was no major trade in slaves. However there were bloody battles between the settlers and Tuscarora Indians, several hundred being captured and sold into slavery.

10. NEW YORK

King Charles II wanted to link all of his east coast colonies. In 1664 he granted his brother and future king, (James II) the Duke of York, the area between Connecticut and Delaware Bay. The Duke of York was the high admiral in the British Navy so with his naval force he took over the land Peter Stuyvesant claimed for the Dutch. In return he granted the Dutch freedom to trade and to practice any religion of their choice. He renamed the area New York

However, under James's rule he ordered new taxes, duties on all goods and rent on all lands without consent from a representative assembly. In fact, he insisted that there be no representative assembly in New York while under his rule. This was the first case of ***Taxation Without Representation.***

In 1683, after intense pressure from the people, James yielded to the colonists and granted civil and political rights to the people that included a representative assembly.

11. NEW JERSEY

In 1664 James II claimed that his granted area was too large for him to control. He gave power to two friends, Lord John Berkeley and Sir George Cartaret which became New Jersey. Berkeley and Cartaret divided the state into two areas. In order to attract settlers they offered: land areas to immigrants, religious freedom and a representative assembly. Some of the land they sold to the Quakers. Eventually poor division laws and disputes led to one royal colony in 1702.

12. PENNSYLVANIA (AND DELAWARE)

This area belonged to William Penn. His father was an admiral in the British navy and the royal family owed Penn Sr. a great debt. They paid his family in a land grant that became known as Pennsylvania. William Penn was a Quaker. The Quakers were often persecuted for their ideas:- ***Peace Loving - Equality for all men and women Non-violence - Resistance to military service - Religion was in one's soul, not the bible***

Penn created his "**Holy Experiment**" a plan for the new colony of three ideas

1. Religious refuse for Quakers and others
2. Liberal ideas in government
3. Generate income and profits for the Penn family.

Frame of Government - In 1682-1683 Penn created a representative assembly elected by the landowners

Charter of Liberties - In 1701 Penn granted freedom of worship and unlimited Immigration

For a main city Penn created a ***Grid Pattern*** for the streets of ***Philadelphia***, a pattern that was to be used by many other cities in America. In addition Penn advocated for the fair treatment of Indians. To sustain the flow of immigrants Penn hired sales agents in England to act as his promoters for the colony.

DELAWARE: Originally settled between 1638 and 1655 by Swedish trespassers on Dutch property along the Delaware River. Assisted by the Thirty years War (1618-1648) and Swedish King Gustavos Adolphus, Swedish Protestants began forming a small colony. New Sweden was never important and was later taken over by the Penn family.

In 1702 Penn granted his three (3) lower Pennsylvania colonial areas their own assembly. This created the area we know as Delaware. Penn however remained the governor of this area. This political system lasted until the revolution when Delaware became the "First State."

13. GEORGIA "THE LAST COLONY"

Chartered in 1732, founded in 1733, named after King George II of England, Georgia was the last of the British colonies created as:-

- A Defensive area to protect South Carolina from Spanish Florida and French Louisiana.
- An area to send thousands of British debtors as a prison system in the colonies

The first settlement was Savannah, founded in 1733 by James Oglethorpe; A Puritan who enforced a ban on both rum and slavery. It was a melting-pot community, including German Lutherans and Scotsmen. All Christian worshippers, except Catholics, had religious toleration. Perhaps the most famous missionary to "convert" amongst those in Savannah was John Wesley. After several years he returned to England and began the Methodist church. However Georgia did not develop as there were many attacks by the Spanish. To protect the king's interests it became a Royal Colony in 1752 and the rums and slavery restrictions were dropped. Georgia was the smallest and poorest of the 13 colonies.

Key Terms and Issues to Know

The Thirteen Original Colonies

Name	Founded by	Year	Status as of 1775
Virginia	The Virginia Co.	1607	Royal (under the crown)
New Hampshire	John Mason et al.	1623	Royal (absorbed by Mass.)
Massachusetts	Puritans	1628	Royal
Plymouth	Separatists	1620	Merged with Mass. 1691
Maine	F. Georges	1623	Bought by Mass. 1677
Maryland	Lord Baltimore	1634	Proprietary (controlled by proprietor)
Connecticut	Mass. emigrants	1635	Self-governing (under local control)
New Haven	Mass. emigrants	1638	Merged with Conn. in 1662
Rhode Island	Roger Williams	1636	Self-governing
Delaware	Swedish	1638	Proprietary Merged with Penn in 1682 and had Same governor but separate assembly granted 1703
North Carolina	Virginians	1653	Royal (separated from SC in 1691)
New York	Dutch then the Duke of York	1613 1664	Royal
New Jersey	Berkeley and Cartaret	1664	Royal
South Carolina	Eight Nobles	1670	Royal
Pennsylvania	William Penn	1681	Proprietary
Georgia	James Oglethorpe et al.	1733	Royal

Joint Stock Company: A company funded and run by a group of investors who share the company's profits and losses.

Middle Colonies: The English colonies of New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania and Delaware.

New England Colonies: English colonies which became the states of Connecticut, Rhode Island, Massachusetts, Vermont, New Hampshire and Maine.

Proprietary Colony: A colony granted by a king or queen to an individual or group of people who have full governing rights.

Puritan: A person who favored the purification of England's Anglican Church

Religious Tolerance: The Idea that people of different religions should live in peace together

Royal Colony: A colony with a governor appointed by the king.

The Plantation Colonies: Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina and Georgia