

Preface

I would especially like to express my appreciation of the determination and dedicated efforts of the late Henry Mackall in working to print these articles for the membership. He was known for his lifetime commitment to searching out and preserving the details of our nation's history, and it has been an honor and real pleasure to have worked so closely with a friend of such high standards and integrity in pursuing this objective.

Thanks are also due Jacque-Lynne Schulman for her careful administrative management of this process on behalf of the Company. Most important have been the diligence and professionalism of History4All's Paula Elsey and Kathy Marinucci in bringing polish and consistency of presentation to articles originating over a period of two decades.

Not being a trained historian, I feel compelled to explain my presumption in presenting a compilation of articles on seventeenth-century Virginia. Some two decades ago, I was elected governor of the Washington and Northern Virginia Company of the Jamestowne Society, and this caused me to pause and consider what contribution might be made, both to my fellow members and to myself. While my childhood memories included a visit to Jamestown's ruins in 1940, I had very little other knowledge of that part of Virginia's history.

This realization led me to decide to take my fellow members on a journey back through Virginia in the years of the Jamestowne century by way of articles printed in the Company's semi-annual newsletters and through periodic talks at the annual meetings. These brief articles and talks would be designed to tell enough of the story to excite the interest of members in searching the references listed for more information and for the supporting anecdotes that bring the subjects to life. Since the information in this book has been taken from both the talks and the articles, footnotes were deemed not appropriate. In addition to a bibliography, a list of references consulted (organized by chapter) is included in the back of this book.

The Virginia Room at the Alexandria Library, with its extensive resources, gave me access to much material and the writings of the talented historians who are today exploring seventeenth-century Virginia on the ground, in universities, and in various archives. Wonderful facts, such as the discoveries connected with locating the first fort at Jamestowne, and their interpretations have been revealed, allowing ever-increasing insights into the times and the people. I have enjoyed sifting through the work of these authors and the records that still exist of that long-ago world. Over 18 years, I set myself a very limited objective of finding themes that interested me and then trying to choose from among them narrow topics that I could explore for others. These topics were prepared and presented

in no particular order, and therefore were written as self-contained narratives. Consequently, there is some overlap in coverage when they are arranged chronologically.

First, a few comments here are intended to alert the reader to the apparently uneven coverage that the surviving records provide and to some unfamiliar ways that dates appear in the references.

The amount of historical data remaining in the documentary record of the seventeenth century varies considerably from period to period. The papers of the Virginia Company of London that survive are far more extensive from the period when Sir Edwin Sandys was its leader from 1619 to 1624 than from the earlier period of his predecessor, Sir Thomas Smith, 1606 to 1619. In large part this is because Sandys' deputy was John Ferrar and considerable numbers of the relevant documents have been found in the Ferrar family papers. The records of the royal colony after the restoration of Charles II in 1660 are more extensive than those of the reign of Charles I because the English government was finally beginning to get a firm, systematic grip on an empire and to determine what it wanted to gain from its colonies. Some of the records of Virginia counties during the seventeenth century vanished because of the decisions made to try to protect them during our Civil War. Many were sent to Richmond for protection, only to be lost in the fires that consumed so much of the city in the last week of that war.

The question concerning dates arises from the fact that the English/British used the Julian calendar until 1752, at which time they changed to the Gregorian calendar. To change a date from the Julian to the Gregorian calendar, which for some two centuries had already been used elsewhere in Europe, involves adding 10 days to the Julian date and then accommodating the change of the year's beginning from 25 March, which was formerly used, to the first of January. Thus, two sample translations of dates from the old style to the new style would be: 5 November 1610 becomes 15 November 1610, while 5 February 1610/1611 becomes 15 February 1611. In these papers, the date of the month has been left in the old style where the year is as shown when single, and the latter year is used when it is shown with the two years in the January through March period.

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