

EIGHTH EDITION—FULLY REVISED

GORTON CARRUTH

# THE ENCYCLOPEDIA OF

# AMERICAN FACTS & DATES

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AMERICAN  
FACTS & DATES

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EIGHTH EDITION



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*Designed by Sidney Feinberg*

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**To  
Gisèle Carruth**

# Preface

From the milestones—Columbus's sightings, the Mayflower landing, the battle of Lexington, the admission of states to the Union, the invention of the automobile, the first radio broadcast, the publication of *Uncle Tom's Cabin*, the launching of the first nuclear-powered submarine, the founding of the first baseball club, the relighting of the torch at the 100th anniversary of the Statue of Liberty—to the interesting and noteworthy—the development of the typewriter, the Lizzie Borden case, the first Army–Notre Dame football game, the Pulitzer Prize winners—to the small details—the favorite drink of colonial Americans, the first performance by Charlie Chaplin in the U.S., Hurricane Donna, population figures throughout American history, the first recorded baptism on U.S. soil, the origins of street cleaning, epidemics, ship sinkings—*The Encyclopedia of American Facts and Dates* remains the best source of events from A.D. 986 to the present. And it indeed is an encyclopedia, not just a listing of dates. Entries are enriched with detail and overall coverage is exceptionally broad and colorful. Here you can find information ranging from explorations, treaties, battles, and politics to sports, theater, movies, crime, literature, philosophy, science, and religion.

This eighth edition has been completely revised and expanded. The yearly introductions that were so well received in earlier editions have been extended from 1932 back to the beginning of the book. The index, newly compiled and designed, is more detailed and useful. Since the first edition, *American Facts and Dates* has been a standard reference book. It is now bigger and better.

The unique arrangement of *American Facts and Dates*, which has proven useful and popular over the years, has been retained. It is the only encyclopedia of American history that is arranged in both concurrent and chronological order. You can read across time—learning about events that happened at the same time—as well as backward or forward in time.

As was done for the first and subsequent editions, new information in this edition was developed from original research and from many standard sources, but particular acknowledgment should be made to those single-volume American date and reference books that have been especially valuable: *The Reader's Encyclopedia* edited by William Rose Benét (Harper & Row); *Documents of American History* by Henry Steele Commager (Prentice-Hall); *The Columbia Encyclopedia* (Columbia University Press); *Information Please Almanac* (Houghton Mifflin); *Famous First Facts* by Joseph Nathan Kane (H. W. Wilson); *A Short Chronology of American History, 1492-1950* by Irving S. and Nell M. Kull (Greenwood); *The Encyclopedia of Sports* by Frank Menke (A. S. Barnes); *Encyclopedia of American History* edited by Richard B. Morris (Harper & Row); *The World Almanac* (Newspaper Enterprise Association). Acknowledgment should especially go to *The New York Times* for much of the recent detail. Thanks should go to the many readers who have made corrections and suggestions for improvement. Warm thanks must be extended to librarians across the country who have adopted *American Facts and Dates* as a standard reference, but the staff of the Mount Pleasant Public Library in Pleasantville, N.Y., must be singled out for special thanks for their cheerful assistance given in every stage of our research.

—GORTON CARRUTH

# How to Use *The Encyclopedia of American Facts and Dates*

The encyclopedia presents in one volume a vast number of the most interesting events from America's past arranged in both *concurrent* and *chronological* order. To make the encyclopedia even more useful, it has a detailed index for instant and easy consulting.

The subject matter is divided into four fields of interest arranged on every pair of facing pages in four vertical columns. **Each column continues on the following pair of facing pages.** The subjects listed at the tops of the columns are representative. Within the four columns you will find entries on the following topics:

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Colonization	Architecture	Agriculture	Crime
Disasters	Art	Business	Dress
Discovery, Exploration, Settlement	Ballet	Colleges and Universities	Expositions
Domestic Affairs	Books and Publishing	Communications	Fashions
Foreign Affairs	Censorship	Economics	Folklore
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Military Affairs	Movies	Industry	Holidays
Politics and Government	Music	Inventions	Manners
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Tariffs	Radio	Religion	
Temperance	Sculpture	Scholarship	
Trade Agreements	Songs	Science	
Treaties	Television	Technology	
Vital Statistics	Theater	Transportation	
Wars and Battles			
Westward Expansion			
Women			



*The text is in concurrent order.* The four fields of interest are presented side by side in parallel columns. Thus, you can read across the page in order to learn what happened in all fields during the same time period.

*The text is also in chronological order.* Decade by decade, year by year, you can follow down the page the facts, dates, and events of American life by subject.

The index is your key not only to finding a specific event about which you want information but also to tracing a theme through American history. For example, if you want to learn about the major events in the history of America's westward expansion or in the development of baseball, turn to the index for a full listing of all the dates and events about those subjects. Please read How to Use the Index on page 832.

**THE ENCYCLOPEDIA OF**  
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## 986-1599

The first Europeans to see the North American continent were Norsemen, led by the navigator Bjarni Herjulfson, who, in 986, while seeking Eric the Red's settlement on the coast of Greenland, was blown off course and sighted an unidentified land mass. In 1000 Leif Ericson, a son of Eric the Red, explored the coast of North America and established a settlement he called Vinland. In the 1960s evidence of such a settlement was unearthed at L'Anse aux Meadows, Newfoundland. Between 1004 and 1008 Leif's brothers, Thorvald and Thorstein, carried out further exploration of the North American coast and may well have seen what is now New England. Thorfinn Karlsefni, a trader from Iceland, visited the coast of North America between 1010 and 1013. The last Norse voyage to the New World took place in 1014-1015 when, according to the Greenland Saga, Eric's daughter, Freydis, sailed with Thorfinn Karlsefni.

**1492 Oct. 12** The expedition of **Christopher Columbus** sighted what was probably present-day Watling Island, in the Bahamas. That day they went ashore and claimed the island for the king and queen of Spain. Columbus explored the northeastern coast of Cuba and northern coast of Hispaniola, then set sail for Spain on Jan. 16, 1493. On his second expedition (1493-1496) he discovered Jamaica, and on his third (1498-1500) he made further discoveries, including the island of Trinidad. During his fourth and final expedition (1502-1504) Columbus discovered Martinique and explored the coasts of present-day Honduras, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, and Panama.

**1497 June 24** **Newfoundland** was discovered by John Cabot, who named it Prima Vista.

**1513 Apr. 2** **Juan Ponce de León** discovered Florida, claiming it for the king of Spain.

**1526 Summer** The first **European settlement** in what is now the U.S., San Miguel de Guadalupe, was established by Lucas Vázquez de Ayllón, who led some 500 or 600 settlers from Hispaniola to the coast of South Carolina. The site of the settlement was thought to have been just north of the mouth of the Pee Dee R. Many of the settlers died of fever. After Ayllón succumbed on Oct. 18, the approximately 150 surviving settlers returned to Hispaniola.

**1539 May 30** **Fernando de Soto** landed in Florida and began the consolidation of Spain's dominion over the peninsula.

**1540** The **Grand Canyon** was discovered by Garcia Lopez de Cardenas, leader of a scouting party for Francisco Vázquez de Coronado's expedition to New Mexico.

**1541 May 8** The first **Europeans to reach the Mississippi R.** were members of the de Soto expedition. De

Almost as soon as the early explorers of America returned to Europe, they wrote accounts of their adventures. These accounts expressed great enthusiasm and, like later accounts, might be classed as promotional material. The first eyewitness report in English of what today is part of the U.S. was written in 1588 by Thomas Hariot, who took part in the Roanoke Island adventure sponsored by Sir Walter Raleigh. Hariot's account was entitled *A Brief and True Report of the New Found Land of Virginia*. It depicted America as a paradise where a little work would yield great prosperity. In the following year appeared *The Principal Navigations, Voyages, Traffics, and Discoveries of the English Nation* by Richard Hakluyt. Not an explorer himself but a collector of the reports of others, Hakluyt later enlarged his book and included the adventures of Sir Francis Drake, Sir Humphrey Gilbert, Sir Martin Frobisher, and others. In the early seventeenth century, further works were written by such explorers as John Smith and Samuel de Champlain. Mapmakers also went to work almost as soon as the New World was found, although their maps were very inexact by today's standards and reflected the prevailing belief or hope that America was but a minor obstacle in the way of ships seeking the riches of the Far East. One such map was prepared by Sebastian Cabot in 1544 and another by Gerardus Mercator in 1569.

**1507** The term *America* was first used for the New World in Martin Waldseemüller's short geography book *Cosmographie Introductio*. Wrote Waldseemüller, "But now that these parts have been more extensively examined, and another fourth part has been discovered by Americus Vespuccius . . . I do not see why anyone should by right object to name it America . . . after its discoverer, Americus, a man of sagacious mind, since both Europe and Asia took their names from women." Waldseemüller mistakenly attributed discovery of the New World to Amerigo Vespucci.

**1519** A **portrait of Christopher Columbus** was completed by Sebastiano del Piombo, the Italian painter, 13 years after the explorer's death in 1506. Sebastiano, whose real name was Sebastiano Luciani, was but one of many artists who portrayed Columbus; however, none of the portraits were painted from life. Columbus had died in poverty, his achievements unrecognized. He went to his death still believing he had discovered part of Asia, and only years after his death did he attain fame. The various posthumous

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## 986-1599

When John Cabot discovered Newfoundland in 1497, he also discovered one of the world's great fishing areas. He enjoyed the codfish his crew found and he saw nets on shore, but not their Indian owners. England, however, was slow to develop this economic and trade resource. The French and Portuguese were the first to exploit it. They took fish home for trading purposes and also traded fish, which they cured on shore, with the Indians for furs. By 1577, according to Richard Hakluyt, there were 150 French fishing craft, 100 Spanish, and 50 Portuguese, but only 15 English vessels fishing in Newfoundland. English fishing, however, became dominant in the next century. Despite the competition of the European nations in other areas, this fertile fishing ground provided a peaceful international exchange.

At the beginning of European colonization, there were some 600 tribes of North American Indians, speaking some 500 different dialects. They were chiefly hunters and gatherers, but some tribes had developed agriculture, and bartered or used wampum to exchange goods. There was a good deal of warfare between tribes and most Indians prided themselves on their courage in battle. But the Indians' chief weapon, the bow and arrow, was no match for European firearms, and against Old World diseases such as smallpox they had no defense. As soon as European settlement began in the early sixteenth century, the fragile structure of North American Indian society began to crumble.

**1112** The first bishop of America was appointed. He was Eric Gnutsson, named by Pope Paschal II. His see included Greenland and Vinland.

**1007** The first white child born in North America was Snorro, the son of Thorfinn and Gudrid Karlsefni, members of Leif Ericson's expedition to Vinland. Later Snorro became an important member of the Norse community in Iceland.

**1540** The first recorded baptism in what is now the U.S. was performed by priests accompanying the Fernando de Soto expedition. They baptized an Indian guide, Peter, in the waters of the Acmulgee R., near present-day Macon, Ga.

**1550-1600** Discovery of new agricultural products during the Spanish explorations of the New World proved a great benefit to European economic development. Spanish expeditions brought back to the Old World such things as potatoes, tomatoes, quinine extracted from the bark of the cinchona tree, cocoa, tapioca from the cassava root, and tobacco. In return settlers brought to the Americas such things as barley, oats, rye, sugar cane, cattle, pigs, poultry, rabbits, and horses, which later found a natural home on the plains.

**1540** The horse was first introduced on a large scale into what is now the U.S. by Francisco Coronado, the Spanish explorer, who traveled through Kansas with 260 horses, most escaping to the Midwest, Mexico, and Canada. These animals eventually mingled with large French Norman horses brought to Canada by French settlers, producing the wild horses later found in North America.

**1564 Spring** The first successful Atlantic crossing by a ship built in North America was accomplished by French Huguenots who had settled on Parris Island, S.C., but who had decided to return to France because their group was destitute. They built a pinnae, using bedding and shirts for sails. They actually

**1564** The earliest hunting pictures in what is now the U.S. were in Jacques le Moyne's account of the René de Laudonnière expedition. Some drawings showed Indians stalking deer under a deerskin, capturing alligators by ramming long poles down their throats, and fishing from pirogues, tree trunks hollowed out to make crude boats.

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Soto died the next year and was buried in the river.

**1542** The first Europeans to reach the Pacific coast of what is now the U.S. were members of the expedition of Juan Rodriquez Cabrillo, who was sent on an exploratory voyage by Spanish administrators in Mexico. Cabrillo landed near what is now Ballast Point, San Diego, Calif., then continued his explorations and discovered Santa Catalina Island, San Pedro Bay, the Santa Barbara Channel, and other West Coast landmarks.

**1562 Apr. 30** The first French colonizers in what was to become the U.S., Huguenots led by Jean Ribaut, established Port Royal on Parris Island, off the coast of present-day South Carolina. In early 1564, when supplies failed to arrive from France, the colony was abandoned.

**1564** Early in the year a second French colony was established near the mouth of the St. Johns R. in Florida, under the leadership of René Goulaine de Laudonnière. Named Fort Caroline, it was near abandonment when Jean Ribaut arrived in the spring of 1565 with more settlers and supplies.

**1565 Sept. 8** The first permanent white colony in what is now the U.S. was founded at St. Augustine, Fla., by the Spanish under Pedro Menéndez de Avilés, a naval officer.

**1565 Sept. 20** Fort Caroline was destroyed by the Spanish under Menéndez, who massacred most of its inhabitants. He renamed it San Mateo and in the next two years built a string of forts to Tampa Bay while looking for a water passage across Florida.

**1579 June 17** The expedition of Sir Francis Drake anchored in a harbor just north of present-day San Francisco Bay in California, during Drake's celebrated circumnavigation of the globe. Drake named the land Nova Albion and claimed it for England. The members of the expedition spent a month repairing their ship. Then on July 26 Drake sailed from California, continuing north and then west across the Pacific Ocean.

**1585 Aug.** The Roanoke Island colony, sponsored by Sir Walter Raleigh, was established on Roanoke Island, off the northeast coast of what is now North Carolina, under the leadership of Sir Richard Grenville and Sir Ralph Lane. The settlers fared badly and returned to England in June of 1586. In 1587 Raleigh sent out another group, under John White, consisting of 117 men, women, and children. White returned to England for supplies but was unable to get back to Roanoke until Aug. 17, 1590. He found all the colonists gone; the only clue to their fate was the word *CROATOAN* carved on a tree. The meaning of this remains unexplained and no trace was ever found of the settlers.

portraits of Columbus showed him lean-faced, fat-faced, blond or swarthy, clean-shaven or bearded, in many different styles of dress. Some 71 of these portraits were exhibited at the World's Columbian Exposition in 1893, and most of them did not in the least resemble contemporary descriptions of Columbus. Sebastiano's portrait is now in the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City.

**c1564** The first professional painter of the New World was a Frenchman named Jacques le Moyne de Morgues, who was associated with the René de Laudonnière expedition of Huguenots that tried to colonize Florida. After destruction of this colony, Le Moyne escaped to France. His drawings were later engraved and used by Théodore De Bry in 1591 in the second of his *Voyages*.

**1584** Richard Hakluyt wrote *A Discourse Concerning Western Planting*, at the request of Sir Walter Raleigh, for Queen Elizabeth I of England. This work urged that the queen promote English settlement in America and offered a complete plan for such a program. Hakluyt said such settlement would help promote religion, supply goods for England, employ men who would otherwise be idle, increase revenues, provide overseas bases for use in the event of war with Spain, and be useful in the search for a Northwest Passage to the Orient. Hakluyt wrote enthusiastically that "this Realm shall have by that meane Shippes of great burden and of great strengthe" for defense. Further, he wrote, colonial trade would "breed more skilfull, connyng and stowte pilotts and maryners than any other belonging to this land: For it is the long voyaiges . . . that harden seamen and open unto them the secrets of navigation." The queen apparently read the *Discourse* but did not act on it. It was not published until almost three centuries later, when it was issued by the Maine Historical Society. As for Hakluyt, an ordained clergyman of the Church of England, he never saw America. Although he had intended to go to Jamestown, Va., in 1607 as rector, he was not physically able to make the trip. He died and was buried in Westminster Abbey in 1616.

**1598 Apr. 30** The first theatrical performance given in North America was acted on the Rio Grande near present-day El Paso, Tex. The play was a Spanish *comedia* dealing with an expedition of soldiers. On July 10 the same group produced *Moros y los Christianos* (Moors and Christians), an anonymous play.

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arrived within sight of the French shoreline, half starved, where they were rescued by English sailors.

**1565** The first introduction of European livestock, such as black cattle, horses, sheep, and swine, into America was made by the Spanish in Florida.

**1565 Sept. 8** The first Catholic parish in what is now the U.S., the parish of St. Augustine, Fla., was founded by Fr. Don Martin Francisco Lopez de Mendoza Grajales, chaplain of the Spanish expeditionary forces.

**1566** The first Jesuit missionaries in what was to become the U.S., three Jesuits sponsored by Pedro Menéndez de Avilés, arrived in Spanish Florida, followed by a second group two years later. The first missions were established at Guale, in present-day Georgia, and Orista and Santa Elena, in present-day South Carolina. The Jesuits were forced out of Florida by the Indians within a few years.

**1579** The first Protestant service in the New World, and the first religious service in English held there, was conducted in California. Participants were members of the crew of Adm. Francis Drake's expedition. Having sailed around South America, the expedition put into a bay at the 38th parallel where, according to the ship's log, "the admiral ordered divine service to be performed at his tent."

**1583** Newfoundland was officially claimed by Humphrey Gilbert, who took possession in the name of the English throne.

**1587** The first Indian convert to Protestant Christianity was Manteo, who was baptized into the Church of England by members of Sir Walter Raleigh's expedition to Roanoke. Manteo was later named Lord of Roanoke by Raleigh.

**1565** Smoking of tobacco was introduced to England by John Hawkins. Hawkins was primarily a slave trader, carrying Africans to the West Indies. Most of his dealings were with the Spanish in the West Indies, but during his second trip to the region (1564-1566) he visited the small French colony in Florida and learned to smoke tobacco from the colonists, who had learned from the Indians. Hawkins returned to England with a shipload of tobacco. He described the Indian use of the plant this way: "The Floridians when they travell have a kinde of herbe dried, who with a cane and an earthen cap in the end, with fire, and dried herbs put together, doe sucke throw the cane the smoke thereof, which smoke satisfieth their hunger, and therewith they live foure or five days without meat or drinke, and this all the Frenchmen used for this purpose."

**1577** Shipboard provisions for early explorers were characterized by the stock carried by Sir Martin Frobisher's second expedition to America to seek the Northwest Passage. The officers and crew, numbering about 150 on three ships, ate hardtack, flour, pickled beef and pork, dried peas and codfish, butter, cheese, oatmeal, rice, honey, and vinegar. The expedition also carried eight tuns of beer, which figured to about a gallon of beer for each crewman for six months.

**1585** The first eyewitness picture of American Indians at play, a drawing by John White, showed Indians participating in lacrosse, archery, and foot racing, and pitching balls at a target on top of a high tree.

**1587 Aug. 18** The first English child born in North America was Virginia Dare. Her parents were Ananias and Ellinor Dare, members of Sir Walter Raleigh's colony at Roanoke Island, in present-day North Carolina. Ellinor Dare was the daughter of Gov. John White, who had led a company of 150 householders to establish a colony on the island.

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## 1600-1609

From the beginning a chief purpose of voyages to the New World was to find a trade route to the Far East. When it became clear that there was a large land mass between Europe and the East, the search for a sea route became a search for the Northwest Passage, a way around the northern part of North America. Sir Martin Frobisher in 1576-1578 was the first European to search for such a route. John Davis made a similar attempt in 1585-1587. When Henry Hudson sailed up the Hudson R. in 1609 he hoped he had found the route, and in 1610 when he discovered Hudson Bay he was on a similar mission. In 1616 William Baffin discovered Baffin Bay, which many years later was to provide a key to the actual route, long after the Northwest Passage had lost any commercial appeal.

**1602 May 15** The first Englishman to land in what is now New England was Capt. Bartholomew Gosnold, who anchored at what is now New Bedford, Mass. He had sailed on Mar. 26 from Falmouth, England, on the *Concord*, touched at the Maine coast, and explored the New England coastline. He named Cape Cod, Martha's Vineyard, and other landmarks.

**1604** The first northern French colony was established by Pierre du Guast, Sieur de Monts, at Neutral Island in the St. Croix R. in southeastern Maine. His patent had been granted by the French king.

**1606** Colonial charters were granted to the Virginia Company of London and the Virginia Company of Plymouth by the English Crown. The grants extended from Cape Fear, N.C., to the St. Croix R. on the border between what are now Maine and New Brunswick, Canada. The London Company was permitted to establish settlements in a tract between 34 and 41 degrees north latitude. The Plymouth Company was granted an equal tract between 38 and 45 degrees north latitude. The overlapping area was a neutral zone where both companies could establish settlements.

**1607 May 13** The first permanent English colony in North America, Jamestown, Va., was founded by more than 100 colonists on the left bank of the "River of Powhatan" (James R.). Dispatched by the London Company, the colonists had sailed aboard the *Sarah Constant*, *Goodspeed*, and *Discovery*.

**1607 Sept. 10** John Ratcliffe replaced the deposed Edward M. Wingfield as president of Virginia colony. Wingfield was the first president of the colony.

**1607 Dec.** Capt. John Smith and two companions were captured by Indians while in search of provisions. His companions were killed, but he was spared. Smith reported, by the intercession of Pocahontas, Chief Powhatan's daughter.

The key factor determining the design of the first colonial structures was the availability of building materials. In New England, the settlers tried to copy the architecture of their homelands, using wood, which was in abundance. In the South, brick soon displaced wood as the favorite building material. In the Southwest, the Spaniards adapted Indian materials and methods for their buildings. Such a structure, the oldest surviving non-Indian building in the U.S., was the governor's palace in Santa Fe, N. Mex., built in 1609 by Don Pedro de Peralta. The building of forts, usually of logs, for defense against Indian attacks, became a necessity. The Jamestown colonists began such work less than a month after they landed in 1607. In August of that year, a Plymouth Company expedition to Maine erected a fort that encompassed other structures.

**1606 Nov. 14** One of the earliest theatrical performances in North America, the French masque *Le Théâtre de Neptune en la Nouvelle-France* (Neptune's Theater in New France), took place at Port Royal, Acadia (Nova Scotia).

**1608** What is considered the first American book, *A True Relation of Such Occurrences and Accidents of Noate as Hath Hapned in Virginia Since the First Planting of that Collony* by Capt. John Smith, was printed in London. The book strangely omitted the famous tale of Pocahontas. It was not until 1624, with the publication of his book *The Generall Historie of Virginia, New-England, and the Summer Isles*, that Smith included a reference to the famous romance.

**1609** The last work of Richard Hakluyt, *Virginia Richly Valued*, was published. It was based upon a Portuguese work, *Relacam*, which was written by a voyager who claimed to have been with Fernando de Soto on the expedition through Florida, Georgia, Alabama, Arkansas, and Louisiana. One of three extant histories of this voyage, *Virginia Richly Valued* has been attributed to the original authorship of de Soto.



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## 1600-1609

In the early days of the English colonies, trade was a one-way street. The colonists badly needed supplies from the homeland. The colony at Jamestown, Va., for example, was not self-sufficient for many years. On June 22, 1607, Capt. Christopher Newport left Jamestown with a cargo for England. Unfortunately, the cargo was fool's gold, but it was an indication of the economic motives of those who sponsored outposts in the New World. In Dec. 1608 Newport sailed with a more practical cargo: pitch, tar, soap, ashes, and glass. There is evidence that sassafras was shipped from Cape Cod earlier, but this Jamestown cargo was the first instance of American manufactures being exported.

Settlers as well as explorers were beginning to come to the English territories on the Atlantic coast. Unfortunately, some of the earliest pioneers, as at Jamestown, Va., were adventurers interested more in making a quick fortune from the alleged riches of the New World than in engaging in agriculture or forestry. In later years, though, a greater diversity of settlers arrived and brought with them a variety of skills. They ranged from wealthy Englishmen, who wanted to carve out large estates, to servants. Merchants saw the opportunity for trade as populations grew. Groups seeking religious freedom were also prominent, bringing with them a tradition of hard work and a willingness to start life anew.

**1603** A monopoly of the fur trade, granted for a ten-year period to Pierre du Guast, Sieur de Monts, by the king of France, reflected the importance the French placed on the trade. The English and Dutch were far behind in developing a fur trade with the Indians. Monts was associated with Pierre Chauvin, Sieur de Tonnetuit, a naval officer and trader; and with Samuel de Champlain, who in 1608 founded Quebec and the following year discovered the lake that now bears his name, in what is now New York State. They established trading posts in eastern Canada, working their way south to the Penobscot R. in what is now Maine. Monts' monopoly of the fur trade was rescinded in 1607, then restored for a year in 1608. He withdrew from the trade about 1612. Even with a monopoly, it was difficult to prevent others from engaging in fur trading. Eventually the English and Dutch became strong competitors in the fur trade.

**1600** The Indian population of what was to become the U.S. was about 1,000,000 when European exploration began. Because the pattern of settlement here differed from that of the Spanish penetration of Central and South America, the change in customs of the Indians was, at first, comparatively slow. Pioneer groups of European colonists were small. They entered regions with sparser populations and more fluid cultures than the larger and more stable Indian communities of Central America, the Andes, and the Caribbean islands. Contact was sometimes mutually beneficial, but there was no fusion of European and Indian cultures as occurred in South America. In retrospect, the first decade of the seventeenth century was the twilight of aboriginal Indian life.

**1607** A measure of social position among the male settlers of Jamestown, Va., the first permanent English settlement in America, was the fact that of some 105 men, 35 were considered gentlemen, persons whose means freed them from the need to work or engage actively in trade. The second expedition to Jamestown contained 33 gentlemen out of 120.

**1608** John Smith had two Indians teach him how to raise Indian corn. Faced with starvation the colonists accepted this new grain, although opposition to it existed everywhere. In French Louisiana, the women, accustomed to fancier European fare, staged a petticoat rebellion against daily consumption of



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**1607 Dec.** Probably the first act of rebellion in the American colonies, a conspiracy against the Council of Jamestown, was uncovered in Virginia. George Kendall, its leader, was shot for mutiny.

**1608** Capt. John Smith was chosen president of Jamestown.

**1609-10** This winter was the so-called **starving time** of the Jamestown colony. Many died and Deputy Gov. Sir Thomas Gates was about to take the colonists away when, on June 10, 1610, Thomas West De La Warr, newly appointed governor of Virginia, arrived. He encouraged the settlers to remain, sent for supplies, and threatened to punish colonists who did not work harder to raise food. As a result, conditions improved during the winter of 1610-1611.

**1609** *Good Speed to Virginia* by Robert Gray, the third work relating to Virginia, was published in London. A tract in the form of a sermon, it was intended to promote colonization. Gray's main argument for such emigration was that England was overpopulated. This work was followed in 1610 by *Newes from Virginia* by Richard Rich, an English soldier who had been in Virginia in June of that year, when the colony was very nearly abandoned. His work was a ballad based on his experiences, and it may have contributed to the dispatch of two more fleets to Virginia in 1611.

## 1610-1619

The colonies, as soon as they were established, had to have leadership and a system of government. The proprietors of the companies that were granted colonizing rights appointed their own colonial governors. The Virginia Company, on Feb. 28, 1610, named Thomas West De La Warr, Lord Delaware, the first lord governor and captain general of the Virginia colony. On May 23, 1611, he was succeeded by Sir Thomas Dale, whose new law code amounted almost to martial law. Within a few years, however, the colonists had more voice in government, and the New England colonies, although theocratic, were not under comparably absolute rule.

The estimated European **population** in the colonies was 210.

**1612** The **foundation of New York City** was laid when the Dutch sent two ships, *Tiger* and *Fortune*, to trade with the Indians on the Hudson R. Huts were built on Manhattan Island (approximately where 45 Broadway now stands) to house trade goods. One year later, a permanent trading post was established. The next year a fort was erected on the tip of the island.

**1613** A small **French settlement**, established at Somes Sound, near Mount Desert on the Maine coast, was forced out by English settlers from Jamestown, Va., led by Samuel Argall.

**1614** The **first important Dutch settlement** in the New World, preceding New Amsterdam, was Fort Nassau, a stockaded post at Castle Island, near present-day Albany, N.Y. Established by Dutch fur traders, it was abandoned in 1617 and a new fort was built on the shore of the Hudson R. Fort Orange, near Albany, was established in 1624 by the Walloons. The region was later dominated by the patroonship of Rensselaerswyck.

**1617 Dec. 23** The **first penal colony** in America was established by English royal proclamation, which

An important figure in early colonial literature was John Smith, the explorer and adventurer who wrote seven books about the New World. Among these were *A Map of Virginia* (1612), probably his best-known work; *A Description of New England* (1616); and *New England's Trials* (1620). These works contributed to further exploration and settlement and offer excellent views of early colonization. Smith's autobiography, *The True Travels, Adventures, and Observations of Captaine John Smith*, was published in 1630, the year before his death.

**1610** An **early report of Virginia** was contained in *A True Reportory of the Wrack and Redemption of Sir Thomas Gates, Knight, upon and from the Islands of the Bermudas, his coming to Virginia and the Estate of that Colony then and after the Government of the Lord La Ware*, a firsthand account of New World settlement by William Strachey. First published in 1625, the manuscript has been offered as one of the sources that might have suggested *The Tempest* to William Shakespeare.

**1612** An **early detailed study of Virginia** was provided in *A Map of Virginia* by Capt. John Smith. The book, describing Virginia's land, its commodities, people, government, and religion, was published in Oxford, England.

**1613** *Purchas His Pilgrimes* by Samuel Purchas, published in England, took a skeptical view of New World settlements. Typical of his remarks is "For what haue they to oppose our Elephants, Rinocerotes, Camels, Horses, Kine, &c. Neither are the naturall fruits of America comparable to those of our World. Whence