

COME INVEST IN VIRGINIA!!

THERE IS TONS OF MONEY TO BE
MADE!!

TOBACCO! THE MIRACLE CROP

LOADS OF TRADE!

FEW INDIANS!

WHAT'S THERE TO LOSE!?! COME
ON THE THE CHESAPEAKE
VALLEY!!

Overall History of The Chesapeake Area

There have been people inhabiting the Chesapeake/ Virginia area for more than 16,000 years. The earliest inhabitants migrated from the west from places as far as California. The climate was much cooler because of the receding glaciers in the north.

However, the climate grew warmer after the ice ages and the rich plant life began to grow. The people of the region began to develop better hunting skills and allowed them to make settlements around the valley. Villages began to inter-marry eventually and a civilization was born. They developed chiefdoms and systems of government. Also, they began a trading system.

Probably the most memorable of the tribes are the Powhatans. They had many encounters with the English. As many tribes, they polytheistic and their geographical beliefs were that the earth was a flat circle and they were the center. The English, however, soon pushed them off the land.

The English actually didn't settle in Virginia for land...initially. It was actually by merchants looking for potential customers. They wanted a jumpstart of the economy. The valley began to be more and more filled.

The English named the area Virginia, in honor of the virgin queen Mary. The first settlement was Jamestown. This is also the area where the story of Pocahontas took place.

Over the course of the next 50 years, there were several wars and shifts in the economy. One product brought there was tobacco. This became the biggest part of their trade.

The last people to migrate before 1740 were the Irish. They made a big contribution to the economy and Virginia thrives today as a presidential powerhouse maker.

Government and Politics of the Chesapeake Region

Virginia was founded by two joint-stock companies, the Plymouth Company and the Virginia Company. The leaders of the two companies immediately began searches for gold and a northwest passage to Asia. Neither was found and in their absence they struggled tremendously with the swampy region prone to mosquitoes. With the leadership disappointed and lost the colonists refused to farm the land causing complete turmoil. John Smith was eventually put at the top of the government bringing an iron hand motivating the colonists to work for happiness. Since the founding of Jamestown in 1607, Virginia was mainly inegalitarian, resembling their English heritage. The governors were constantly replaced and so were the legal systems. An attempted legal code was the *Laws Divine, Morall and Martiall*, which fell back on the death penalty as a common punishment. During the difficult times the companies began using the headright system, which gives 50 acres to anyone who paid his own way to Virginia. A liberal society was also created to attract visitors. In 1609 it was decided unoccupied government positions were in the hands of stockholders. Because the government was given freedom it created an assembly called the House of Burgesses (the first representative body in America). This House voted for the government positions and made laws for the colony. In 1619 the two major changes were made in Virginia: government was made by the people and the institution of slavery. In 1624 the Virginia Company, was deprived of its charter because the king of England didn't enjoy the Puritan element to the colony and the company's government by the people; all this demoting the colony's status to 'royal colony'. When Charles I took over the crown he paid little attention to Virginia, allowing them to return to their free government. Although freedom was regained the colony struggled in finding sturdy leadership. When the colony found some

leadership they enjoyed some of their freest times. A man Nathaniel Bacon destroyed this freedom by beginning Bacon's Rebellion which destroyed Jamestown and eventually caused the crown to intervene and make Virginia a royal colony again. While Virginia was the main colony in the Chesapeake region, Maryland is also of some significance. It began as a proprietary colony (all for him) for a man by the name of Cecilius Calvert. Calvert divided the land into manors for wealthy and persecuted Catholics in England. These Catholics would collect the rent from tenant farmers and ran their own government and court of law. One universal law was the Act for Religious Toleration which called for freedom of worship for all Christians.

Culture and People of the Chesapeake Region

The Chesapeake region had a very difficult time becoming established. Even so by 1700 Virginia, which made up the bulk of the Chesapeake region, was England's largest colony with a population of 75,000 people. The lives of the first English people to colonize in Virginia yielded little culture, however, their lives revolved around the tobacco crop. The English colonists were the first farmers the main users of the tobacco crop. Tobacco shaped almost every aspect of the society. The tobacco success in sales back to England caused people to move to the countryside instead of gathering in towns. At first the price was high for tobacco but when it became available in a much greater abundance, the price dropped. In order to produce a profit, the farmers of Virginia hired indentured servants who were able to travel to Virginia for free and at the end of their serving time with a master, were given clothes and corn. In return, they were asked four to seven years of labor. The people who were most fit to work the tobacco farms were the young boys, who could work long hours in the laborious conditions of the tobacco fields. When they had served their time, they were free to go and acquire their own land, however, many of these people died of starvation and loss of direction without a master. Not long from the time in which the indentured servants came along, they were followed by African American servants. These servants were cheaper, and could be owned until death. Obviously, there are many positives and negatives to the Chesapeake region lifestyle. Settlers who acquired large estates, and could afford many servants, would have a prosperous life in the Chesapeake area. However, life could also be devastating and treacherous, like the many others who only acquired small plots of land and could only grow enough to survive. However, both of these groups of people lived a desolate and peaceful country life away from the towns.

There is much pride on being a Virginian and a Marylander, and we as the people look up to and praise these men as our fathers and heroes.

Economics and Geography of the Chesapeake Region

The Chesapeake region is most likely the most profitable region in the colonies. With all of the fertile land, the farming is better here than anywhere else. The two major crops that make the Chesapeake region profitable for settlement and farming are tobacco and sugar cane. The land is incredibly fertile and it's almost as if these two crops were meant to be grown there. Some other less popular crops are indigo and corn. The weather is warm almost the entire year, so the weather doesn't cut too close to harvest time. People own large slots of land where they farm their crops of choice. However, tobacco and sugar cane can suck all of the nutrients out of the soil, and take a vast amount of time to prep for selling. The way around this detour is comprised of two parts, the owning and use of slaves, and crop rotation. Through the use of crop rotation, you can be sure that your harvest of tobacco will be as bountiful and as superior as your last. This method however, requires that you have an enormous plot of land so that you have enough space to switch your sectors of crops around. The only issue is if you don't have enough money to front the cost of your slaves, you will not make as much as plantations that have them. With this problem, the rich tend to get richer and vice versa. With this said, due to the larger areas of land available, you can make much more money farming here than in the New England region. The population in the Chesapeake area is almost 40% slaves. They are a very important part of the economy in the Chesapeake region, and without them, it would be very hard for a farmer to produce enough of a crop for the colonies. The Chesapeake Bay area itself is bordered by the Blue Ridge and the Catoctin mountains. There are three different sectors: the *Bay* itself, the *coastal plain* and the *Piedmont*. The Bay has open salt water and rivers flow into the Ocean at the southeastern end. The plains have beaches, forests, marshes, and grassy areas on generally

sandy soil. They tend to be flat, and low-rolling hills are located in the middle of the region. The Piedmont, which means “foot hills”, is a region with hardwood forests and empty lands bordered by fresh water rivers.

Famous People of the Chesapeake Region

The Chesapeake area is the home of great rulers of the past. They have founded colonies and ruled them justly. We look to these great men for ideas on how to continue to govern our selves justly. John Smith is one of these great men. He helped to establish the colony of Jamestown in the Virginia area. In September of 1608 John Smith was elected president of the ruling council. Jamestown steadily grew under his hand and it was with great sorrow when he was injured. His injury was a serious burn from his powder horn when it exploded. He was sent back to England to receive treatment and sadly never returned. Another esteemed Virginian was Alexander Spotswood. He was a lieutenant- colonel in her majesties' forces. He was appointed lieutenant governor of Virginia in 1710. He helped regulate trade with the Indians and keep the peace. He also established the Tubal works which is possibly the first successful ironworks in the colonies. He was recalled from duty 1722, but kept his contacts and was able to act as adviser to other head figures. The other colony in the Chesapeake Bay area is Maryland. It was founded by Caecilius Baltimore. He intended it to be a refuge for Catholics; a place where they could practice their religion freely as well as hold places in government. It was also to be a colony of religious tolerance and many Protestants settled there as well. This led to many disputes between the Catholics and the Protestants because the Protestants became the majority, and began to dispute the Catholics authority. Baltimore tried to resolve these conflicts, but he himself never went to Maryland. He stayed in England and ruled through deputies and letters of instructions. These were the great men of Chesapeake Bay and its surrounding colonies. They are the founders and rulers and by their hands great civilizations have been built up from the ground.

Religion in the Chesapeake Area

Those of you who are Catholic, come to Maryland, we intended it for you. Despite the large majority of Protestants, Maryland is a prominent Catholic state. The first Baptist church was just built this year for all of you Baptists. A Lutheran church was built back in 1729 for the Protestants. Roman Catholicism has a large history here since the state was founded for Roman Catholics. The Jesuits helped found Catholicism here in Maryland under the Church of England. We need more Catholics here in Maryland because of our decreasing population. Maryland is one of the very few states that are tolerant to other Christian religions such as Catholicism. The problem is that most Catholics do not realize that. We have to give much thanks to George Calvert who intended, Maryland as a catholic state. Maryland is the cause for our modern day catholic church. It is yet to make history for the Catholic Church history in America.

For all you English Catholics in England, many of you must feel persecuted against. You will be able to practice your religion in public without a care in the whole world. Religion and government our separated in Maryland, so that way no religion is favored. There are a variety of protestant religions in Maryland. There are Anglicans, Puritans, Presbyterians, and even Quakers. Maryland symbolizes the religious freedom that is yet to come in America. Come to Maryland to help push forward that freedom so that it can expand into other states.

The Future of the Chesapeake Region

From here on in, the Chesapeake region can only get better. The Chesapeake region by far is the region that has the most opportunities for making a fortune in today's world. While 1740 is good for the area, it has some aspects that could be amended to create a better economy and a more attractive business prospect. With all of the great farmland that the Chesapeake area has to offer, there's no telling how much money could be made with more land cleared for farming. The area needs to try to expand its economy, however, because growing tobacco and sugar cane forever will turn the region into relying on these two exports for all of their income. By expanding its market and having more towns, an area with two exports becomes an area with many exports, where if one fails and loses value, the others will hopefully make sure that all hope is not lost. The Chesapeake area also needs a much larger work force to accommodate all of the extra land available for settlement. There's no reason that land should be open and no one making good use of it, and the only thing that could happen if someone improves it is an increase of value in the area. With a new group of colonists farming the land, there will need to be a much larger group of slaves to tend to the land in order to make the biggest profit off of each harvest. The bottom line: the area needs more people! Slaves, farmers, indentured servants, and people to start towns all need to immigrate to the Chesapeake area in order for economic growth and success. If all goes according to plan, the Chesapeake region will be the leading area of the colonies for many years to come.