

VIRGINIA COMPANY
FIRST VIRGINIA CHARTER

April 10, 1606

I. JAMES, by the grace of God, King of *England, Scotland, France, and Ireland*, Defender of the Faith, &c.

WHEREAS our loving and weldisposed subjects, Sir *Thomas Gates* and Sir *George Somers*, Knights; *Richard Hackluit*, Clerk, Prebendary of *Westminster*; and *Edward-Maria Wingfield*, *Thomas Hanham* and *Raleigh Gilbert*, Esquires; *William Parker* and *George Popham*, Gentlemen; and divers others of our loving subjects, have been humble suitors unto us that we would vouchsafe unto them our license to make habitation, plantation and to deduce a colony of sundry of our people into that part of *America* commonly called VIRGINIA, and other parts and territories in *America* either appertaining unto us or which are not now actually possessed by any *Christian* prince or people, situate, lying and being all along the sea coasts between *four and thirty* degrees of *northerly* latitude from the equinoctial line and *five and forty* degrees of the same latitude and in the main land between the same *four and thirty* and *five and forty* degrees, and the islands thereunto adjacent or within *one hundred miles* of the coast thereof;

II. *And to that end*, and for the more speedy accomplishment of their said intended plantation and habitation there, are desirous to divide themselves into two several colonies and companies, the one consisting of certain Knights, gentlemen, merchants and other adventurers of our city of *London*, and elsewhere, which are and from time to time shall be joined unto them which do desire to begin their plantations and habitations in some fit and convenient place between *four and thirty* and *one and*