

THE HISTORY OF THE UNITED STATES

HISTORY 8 FOR YOUNG CATHOLICS

SETON PRESS
FRONT ROYAL, VA

© 2011 Seton Home Study School
All rights reserved.
Printed in the United States of America.

Seton Home Study School
1350 Progress Drive
Front Royal, VA 22630
540-636-9990
540-636-1602 fax

For more information, visit us on the Web at www.setonhome.org.
Contact us by e-mail at info@setonhome.org.

ISBN:

Cover:



DEDICATED TO THE SACRED HEART OF JESUS

THE HISTORY OF THE UNITED STATES

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Chapter 1: The Beginnings of Our Nation (874-1525)	1
Chapter 2: Exploring the Americas (1492-1700)	10
Chapter 3: The Southern English Colonies Are Established (1607-1752)	30
Chapter 4: The New England and Middle English Colonies Are Established (1620-1763) . . .	41

THE BEGINNINGS OF OUR NATION



Columbus Discovers America

The Story Starts...

The story of the United States of America begins almost five hundred years before Christopher Columbus came to America. It begins in the Old World, where for centuries our forefathers lived. It begins in Norway, Sweden, and Denmark. It has chapters in Portugal, Spain, Italy, France, and England. The story first begins in the ninth century when Viking warriors sought adventure, conquest, and plunder. The story of the beginnings of America is one of daring explorers. It is a tale of the sacrifice of priests and missionaries. It is a story of how men suffered and struggled and labored in their search for new lands, new markets, and new souls to save. It is a tale of discovery.

The Viking Explorations

Our story starts with the Vikings. These men were marauding seamen from Norway, Denmark, and Sweden. For nearly three centuries, their snake-shaped or dragon-modeled ships raided the coasts of Europe from the British Isles in the north to the shores of Italy in the south and to Constantinople in the east. These pirates killed, burned, robbed, and terrorized wherever they went.

About the year 874, the Vikings reached Iceland, an island in the North Atlantic ocean on which Irish monks had previously settled. Here the Vikings established a colony. A century later, the Viking, Eric the Red, sailed west from Iceland to Greenland where he founded another colony. The son of Eric the Red, Leif Ericson, left Greenland to return to Norway, where he became a Catholic. Then, at the request of the king, who also had become a Catholic, Leif went back to Greenland as a missionary. On this return voyage, about the year 1000, heavy storms forced Leif off course. Norse sagas tell that he touched the shores of what is now Labrador, Newfoundland, and Nova Scotia. He may have sailed and explored as far west as the Great Lakes. This land was covered with vines, and Leif called it Vinland. However, he did not establish a permanent settlement there. As a result, this land was forgotten for almost five hundred years.



The Vikings discovered Vinland.

The Crusades

To the Catholics of Europe, the Holy Land was sacred. It was the land sanctified by Our Blessed Lord Himself. This is where Jesus had been born, had lived, had taught, and had died. All the places and things associated with the life and death of Christ were in the Holy Land: Nazareth, Jerusalem, the Mount of Olives, the Tomb of Christ, and Calvary.

In 1071, at the Battle of Manzikert, the Turks won a decisive battle over the Eastern Empire. Though the capital of the Eastern Empire at Constantinople would not fall for another four hundred years, the loss of this battle spelled the end for the Eastern Empire. The Turks then moved on and captured the Holy Land. Jerusalem fell to the Turks in 1077. When news reached Europe of the capture of Jerusalem by the Turks, Catholics felt not only great sorrow but also righteous anger.

By the end of the eleventh century, conditions were at their worst. Catholics were denied the right to visit Jerusalem and the other sacred places. When they did go to the Holy Land, they were robbed and beaten. Many were killed. The safety of Constantinople also was threatened. For these reasons, the Eastern emperor, Alexius, appealed for help to Pope Urban II. So it was that in 1095, the pope called for volunteers to drive the Turks from the Holy Land and to recover the places made sacred by Christ.

Common people and knights answered his plea with a cry of “God wills it.” Large bands of devoted men gathered and traveled by land and sea eastward to rescue the Holy Land. These expeditions were called the Crusades. Those who took part in them were known as Crusaders. For two hundred years, eight major Crusades were organized. However, of all these, only the First Crusade was truly successful. Jerusalem was captured and a Christian kingdom was set up. Later, however, the Muslims again captured the Holy Land. All further efforts to regain the Christian kingdom failed. The Crusades ended in defeat.

The Results of the Crusades

Although their original purpose was never gained, the Crusades did much to awaken the interest of Europe in the Holy Land and the East. Mostly, the Crusades proved to Europeans the value of trade with the Orient. The returning Crusaders produced in the people of Europe an intense interest in the products of the East and the desire for those products. Among the Eastern goods were pepper, spices, sugar, coffee, tea, drugs, perfumes, gems, pearls, rugs, and silks from the East. The desire to obtain these items stimulated trade and commerce. Merchants and traders began to import these goods in large quantities. European trade flourished.

The port cities of Genoa and Venice in Italy were well located. They became the shipping and distributing centers for trade between the East and northern and central Europe. As a result, both of these cities grew rich and independent. All Europe became anxious to share in the trade that contributed to the wealth and independence of these two great cities.

The Crusades also created a new interest in geography and travel. The thrilling tales of adventure told by the Crusaders and the daring exploits of the traders made people think about the Far East. More and more interest was focused on finding new trade routes to the fabulous lands of the East.

After the invention of the compass and the astrolabe, sea captains were able to find their way on the high seas. The compass told them in what direction to steer their ship. The astrolabe enabled them to tell the longitude of the ship and its approximate distance from land. These were great advantages. They gave the sailors ability to sail uncharted seas. Thus, the way was prepared for the discovery of America.

SPOT CHECK

1. Who were the Vikings?
2. What were the Crusades?
3. Which pope called the First Crusade?
4. Name two results of the Crusades.

Marco Polo Describes the Riches of the East

From 1271 to 1295, Marco Polo, a Venetian, traveled in Asia. For a time, he served the emperor of China, Kublai Khan. He saw the wealth and culture of Asia. When he returned to Venice, Italy, he wrote a book about what he had seen and done. Although the book was written before the invention of the printing press and had to be copied by hand, many copies were made. The book was widely read all over Europe. It caused an increased interest in the Far East.

Why Men Searched for a Route to the East

As time went on, rivalry for the Eastern trade increased. So, too, did the expense and the length of time involved in moving goods between the East and the West. More and more it became necessary for the merchants to protect their caravans from robbers and hostile tribes along the routes. Warehouses and trading posts had to be built. Costly treaties had to be made with the various tribes whose land the routes crossed. This meant that eventually the cost of delivering the products became almost too expensive.

In 1453, the Turks captured Constantinople. This made it more difficult and expensive to transport goods overland. Hence it became important to look for a new route. Only an all-water route would solve the problems of transportation and at the same time reduce the cost of delivering the goods.

Portugal's Search

Portugal is a small nation on the western coast of the Iberian (Spanish) peninsula. It began the search for a new route to eastern trade. Portugal was in a good position to do this, since its entire coastline faced the Atlantic Ocean, the only alternate route to the Mediterranean Sea. One of Portugal's princes was so enthusiastic about exploration and navigation that he was known as Henry the Navigator.

Christopher Columbus

One of the people who had read Marco's Polo's book with great interest was Christopher Columbus. Columbus was born in the port city of Genoa, Italy. Growing up, he had heard the stirring tales of seamen and was determined to become a sailor. Therefore, at an early age, he entered upon a seagoing career. He sailed to all parts of the Mediterranean and on one voyage reached Portugal. There he became acquainted with the pupils and followers of Prince Henry the Navigator.

As a student of geography, astronomy, and travel, Columbus, together with the learned geographers, knew that the earth is round. However, he was mistaken in his belief as to the size of the world. His mistake was compounded when the most highly regarded geographer and mapmaker of the time, the Italian Toscanelli, said that China was only 5000 nautical miles from Europe by sea. (In fact, it is more than twice that far.) Toscanelli encouraged Columbus in his belief that the East could best be reached by sailing west. As a result, Columbus decided to make a voyage to prove that this was true. He hoped not only to find wealth for himself and those who aided him, but also to bring the teachings of Christ to the peoples of the Far East.

Getting a Nation to Help

Columbus was poor and could not carry out his idea without financial help. He vainly sought aid from Portugal, Venice, and Genoa.

Finally, through the influence of Father Perez, who had formerly been the confessor of Queen Isabella of Spain, he obtained help from that good queen. He obtained three small vessels: the *Niña*, the *Pinta*, and the *Santa Maria*. With these ships, Columbus prepared to sail from Palos, Spain. Before starting the voyage on August 3, 1492, Columbus and his crew attended Mass celebrated by Father Perez.



Christopher Columbus

In 1492, Columbus Sailed the Ocean Blue

Columbus' first stop was at the Canary Islands, where some time was spent repairing one of the ships. Then, as the three ships sailed on day after day without any sight of land, fear and anxiety grew. Again and again, the men begged Columbus to turn back. Their food was running low and the sailors lost hope. They even threatened to mutiny, to kill Columbus, and to take control of the ships. However, Columbus persuaded them to keep going.

At last, early on the morning of October 12, 1492, land was sighted. Columbus called the land San Salvador, which means "Holy Savior." Thinking that he had arrived in the East Indies, he called the natives, Indians. He came ashore, knelt down, gave thanks, and planted a cross claiming the new land for Spain.



Replicas of the *Niña*, *Pinta*, and *Santa Maria*.

Columbus died in 1506 without knowing that he had discovered a new world. Up to the time of his death, he believed that he had reached islands off the coast of Asia. Yet he was puzzled and confused. If he had reached the East, where were the riches and the great civilization described by Marco Polo and other travelers to the Orient?

Sadly, Columbus died feeling that he had failed. However, he had made the most memorable voyage in history. After his death, the Spanish people, who had ridiculed him as the “Italian adventurer” and “idle dreamer,” joined in paying tribute to him. They came to realize the importance of his discovery. The king of Spain erected a monument over his grave on which were inscribed the famous words, “To Castile and Leon, Columbus gave a New World.”

Amerigo Vespucci

History failed to give Columbus the credit he was due. The land he discovered rightly should have been named Columbia. However, it is

not the name of Columbus, but the name of Amerigo Vespucci, another Italian, that was given to the New World. It appears that Vespucci made voyages across the Atlantic in the employment first of Spain and then of Portugal. This second expedition carried him south along the coast of what is now Brazil. His fame rests upon the fact that he wrote a letter in which he told of the lands, peoples, and animals he had seen and in which he expressed his belief that this was a new world. Some years later, this account came to the attention of a German mapmaker, Martin Waldseemueller. Waldseemueller suggested that the “new part of the world” be called “America” in honor of Amerigo Vespucci, who, he believed, had discovered it. At first, the name was given only to what is now South America. However, it gradually came to be applied to the entire New World. As a result, we live in the United States of America, not the United States of Columbia.

SPOT CHECK

1. Who was Marco Polo?
2. Why was a new trade route to the East needed?
3. What mistake did Columbus make about the earth?
4. Who was Amerigo Vespucci?

CHAPTER REVIEW

1. Who was the Viking leader who may have come to North America?
2. What was the purpose of the Crusades?
3. Why was Marco Polo important?
4. What early inventions were particularly helpful to sailors?
5. How did the capture of Constantinople by the Turks help bring about the discovery of America?
6. Why was Prince Henry of Portugal called the “Navigator”?
7. Which European country was the first to find an all-water route to the East?
8. What did Columbus study to learn that the earth is round?
9. Who was Amerigo Vespucci?
10. What date did Columbus discover America? Where did he land?

EXPLORING THE AMERICAS



De Soto Discovers the Mississippi River

SPAIN IN THE NEW WORLD

Settlements Are Made

The discovery of the New World caused the nations of Europe to dream of new empires. Even before the death of Columbus, the lands he had discovered became centers of Spanish life, for from the start Spain sought to establish a colonial empire and to convert the natives. The first settlements were made on the islands in the West Indies discovered by Columbus. These became stepping-stones for further colonization in the Americas. Little by little, the New World was opened up to settlement. Missionaries brought the Catholic Faith to people worshipping pagan gods.

Balboa and the Pacific Ocean

Among the Spaniards living in the West Indies in 1510, there was a daring young nobleman named Vasco de Balboa. He lived lavishly and, as a result, found himself heavily in debt. To escape his creditors, he had himself smuggled aboard a ship bound for the Isthmus of Panama. When he arrived there, he heard the natives tell of a great body of water south of the mountains. They also described a country so rich that its people ate and drank from golden cups and plates.

These stories aroused Balboa's curiosity. In 1513, with a group of followers, he set out to find the great body of water beyond the mountains. For twenty days, he tramped and cut his way through the jungle on the isthmus. At last, from the top of a mountain, he discovered the Pacific Ocean. He called it the South Sea because it lay to his south. He set up a cross on the shore and took possession of the sea in the name of Spain.

Balboa did not find the gold of which the natives had spoken. However, he proved that the new land was, as Vespucci had claimed, a separate continent.

Ponce de Leon and the Fountain of Youth

In 1513, the same year that Balboa discovered the Pacific, Ponce de Leon, the governor of Puerto Rico, discovered Florida. He had heard the Indians tell of a fountain in a land north of Cuba that would restore youth to even the oldest person. With high hopes and strong resolve, he set out in search of this magic fountain. In addition to searching for the fountain, he also desired to explore the new land and claim it for Spain. On Easter Sunday, 1513, he reached land. He called the land Florida, in honor of the Spanish name for Easter, Pascua Florida, "the Feast of Flowers."

Ponce de Leon's search for the fountain was in vain. There is no such thing as a fountain of youth. Instead of the fountain of youth,

he found savage and unfriendly natives. They prevented him from establishing a settlement. However, he was able to explore much of the area around Florida. His voyage gave Spain a foothold in North America. A half century later, in 1565, this claim to territory in Florida was strengthened when the Spanish explorer, Menendez, founded St. Augustine in Florida. It is the oldest town in the United States.

Magellan Sails Around the World

In 1519, Ferdinand Magellan began what has been described as “the greatest single human achievement on the sea.” On September 20, he left Spain with a fleet of five ships in search of a new route to the East. He sailed across the Atlantic to South America. By early December, they arrived in South America. The ships began to sail down the eastern coast of South America entering each river that they found. Finally the little fleet passed through the narrow, stormy strait at the southern tip of the continent, now called the Strait of Magellan.

When Magellan entered the ocean to the west of South America, the sea was so calm and peaceful that he named it the Pacific. Sailing westward, he crossed the waters discovered by Balboa. Finally, on March 16, 1521, he reached the Philippine Islands. By the time Magellan reached these islands, one ship had deserted and one had been wrecked.

In April, Magellan’s ships sailed to Cebu, one of the Philippine Islands. There he met the King and Queen of Cebu. After trading gifts with the two monarchs, he told them of the Catholic Faith. They both saw the truth of the Faith and asked to be baptized along with several hundred of their subjects. Magellan presented the queen with a statue of the Infant Jesus as a gift for her baptism. However, tragedy soon followed this happy moment.

Chief Lapu-Lapu of a nearby island, Mactan, was an enemy of the King of Cebu. The king asked Magellan for help defeating his enemy. Magellan was eager to show his new friend the value of an alliance with the Spanish, so he agreed. On the morning of April 27, Magellan sailed to Mactan Island with about sixty of his men. They landed on the beach of Mactan, but were faced by a force of over 1,500 enraged natives. Magellan fought valiantly but was killed.

Despite the death of its leader, the expedition continued. Of the three ships left to the Spanish, one had to be burned before leaving the Philippines. Another ship was lost in a storm at sea. So it was that on September 6, 1522, only one ship returned to Spain. This ship, called the *Victoria*, which means victory, was well named. Its journey around the world had lasted three years, from beginning to end. Of the crew of two hundred forty-three men that set out from Spain, only eighteen returned. However, its cargo of cloves that it had picked up in the Spice Islands more than paid for the entire voyage. The dream of Columbus had been realized. Men had sailed around the world.

Hernan Cortez in Mexico: the Conquest of Darkness

In history, there have been primitive societies that sometimes practiced human sacrifice. None practiced them on the scale of the Aztecs in Mexico. The total number of humans killed was at least 50,000 per year. In 1487, a huge new pyramid was dedicated in the Aztec capital. On this occasion, 80,000 people were sacrificed to the Aztec “gods” over a period of four days.

However, there is even more evidence of the Satanic nature of the Aztec society. The Aztecs had two main “gods.” One was known as the Lover of Hearts and the Drinker of Blood. The other was known as the Lord of the Dark. Nowhere else in history has Satan so institutionalized and formalized his worship than in the Aztec empire.

In the same year that Magellan set sail from Spain, 1519, Hernan Cortes landed on the coast of Mexico with about five hundred men. Since he had landed on Good Friday, he named the beach where he landed Vera Cruz, the True Cross. When the Aztecs learned he was there, ambassadors from the Aztec emperor, Montezuma II, came to greet him. In August, after spending several months learning all he could about the Aztec empire, he marched inland to its capital. He was quite literally marching into the mouth of Hell.

On November 8, after fighting a few battles, Cortes and his men arrived in the capital. There they saw the temples and the bodies of the victims. Montezuma came to meet them. He treated the Spanish well and housed them in the city near the temple. On November 13, after going to Mass, Cortes and his men climbed to the top of the pyramid temple where they saw the horrors therein.

Two days later, Cortes took Montezuma prisoner. Cortes feared that any minute the Aztecs would attack them. He hoped that with their emperor as his prisoner, an attack was less likely. However, this was not the case. In June 1520, a mob of Aztecs attacked. Cortes brought out Montezuma to try and quiet the mob, but his own people killed the emperor with a stone. The Spanish had to flee the city. As Cortes fought his way out of the city on June 30, he lost half of his men. Those that were captured were killed in sacrifice to the Aztec “gods.”

Cortes was a brave soldier. His ancestors had fought 770 years to free Spain from the Muslims. He would fight to free Mexico from Satan. Over the next several months, he regrouped his army. He found allies among the enemies of the Aztecs. In February 1521, he marched on the Aztec capital. As Cortes won victories, more native people joined his army. From May to August, the Spanish and their allies fought the Aztecs for the city. On August 13, the Spanish captured the new emperor, bringing the city under their control.

The Satanic empire of the Aztecs was ended. The Catholic Faith could now come to Mexico. It would come in a most spectacular fashion. In December 1531, Our Blessed Lady appeared to Juan Diego at Tepeyac hill near Mexico City. Less than a decade after her apparition, virtually all of Mexico had become Catholic.

From Mexico, Spanish expeditions went forth to explore. They traveled northward to the Rio Grande and westward to the Pacific. Spanish colonists settled at various points in the more attractive parts of the country. With them traveled Spanish priests to teach Christ Crucified and to convert the Indians to the Catholic Faith.

Pizarro in Peru

History has painted the Spanish conquistadors as ruthless plunderers and killers. As we have seen, Hernan Cortes was not this kind of person. Sadly, other Spaniards did not live up to his noble ideals. Such a man was Francisco Pizarro. Pizarro had been born and raised in terrible poverty. Consequently, as an adult, he was interested only in becoming wealthy.

Prompted by the stories of a vast and wealthy kingdom to the south of Mexico, Francisco Pizarro, with about two hundred followers, decided to look for wealth there. In January 1531, Pizarro and his men landed in Ecuador. For the next year and a half, they tramped through the jungles of South America. Finally, in May 1532, he learned the location of the fabulous empire he sought. He headed to Peru. The natives of Peru were a highly civilized tribe known as Incas. Unlike the Aztecs, the Incas ruled a peaceful empire with little or no human sacrifices.

Pizarro's plan of conquest was simple and brutal. Just one day after his arrival, he asked to meet with the Inca emperor Atahualpa. Pizarro promised him that no harm would come to him. In the midst of the welcoming ceremonies, he abruptly seized the Inca leader in the



Pizarro seized the Inca emperor.

middle of the town square. In the panic that followed, the Spanish soldiers attacked the mostly unarmed crowd. Thousands were killed. The emperor was taken as a hostage.

Seeing a chance to obtain a great deal of gold and silver, Pizarro encouraged the Incas to pay ransom. He asked that a room be filled with gold. However, after the Incas had filled the room with gold, the treacherous Pizarro killed the emperor. The Spaniards soon captured the capital city, Cuzco. Spanish rule, with little Catholic charity in it, extended over all Peru. This gave to Spain her richest possession in the New World.

De Soto and the Mississippi

Hernando De Soto had served under Cortes and Pizarro. He had seen the fabulous wealth of the Incas. He had heard that

gold and great riches could be found in the Florida territory. With this hope in mind, he set out to conquer and settle this unknown land.

De Soto and his men tramped on and on. Instead of gold, the men found swamps, marshes, and jungles. The humid, insect-infested lowlands proved to be the breeding place of fever and disease. Food ran low. The men endured great hardship and suffering. The natives repeatedly attacked De Soto and his men, killing many. It is not surprising, therefore, that some of the men became discouraged and begged De Soto to turn back. Yet De Soto was determined to find gold. He refused to let suffering and even death stand in his way.

De Soto and his men kept up their weary trek from Florida through what are now Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, and Tennessee. At last, in 1541, they came to the Mississippi River, just below where the city of Memphis is now located. Driven on by the lure of riches, they crossed the mighty river. The band of men made their way into the present states of Arkansas and Oklahoma. There, however, they found only thickets and lowlands.

In despair, De Soto and his men turned back. Discouraged and weakened by the hardships of the expedition, De Soto became ill and died. To prevent the natives from learning about the loss of their leader, his men sank his body in the muddy waters of the Mississippi, the great river that he had discovered. Then, they quickly built seven frail boats. They sailed down the Mississippi and through the Gulf of Mexico to a Spanish settlement in Mexico.

Coronado Explores the Southwest

While De Soto was struggling with hostile natives and suffering from hardships and disease, another Spaniard, Francisco Coronado, left Mexico and started northward in search of a land

of legend. Like most of the other Spanish explorers, Coronado was enticed by stories of riches and wealth. Indians had told him of seven cities of gold. The expedition traveled as far north as the River Platte and explored what is now the southwest of the United States. Some of his men discovered the Grand Canyon. However, the fabled wealth was never found. There were only great plains, tepee villages, pueblos, and huge herds of buffalo that roamed the land. At last, tired and discouraged, Coronado returned to Mexico in 1542.

Spanish Missionaries in the New World

During the four hundred years of rule in the Americas, Spain became the richest country in Europe. However, it was not interested only in the gaining of wealth. Spain also desired to convert the natives and to civilize them. In establishing settlements, Spain founded missions and built schools to promote Spanish culture.

Spanish missionaries founded missions from southern California to Chile. Among these missionaries were Franciscans, Dominicans, Jesuits, and Carmelites. Priests and brothers came to the New World to preach and to teach the Faith. They came ready to endure any hardship and to suffer a martyr's death, if need be, in order to convert the natives.

Of all the missions, those founded in California by Franciscan Father Junipero Serra are the most famous. In all, he established nine of the twenty-one Franciscan missions that stretched from San Diego to San Francisco. Father Serra achieved this from 1769 to 1784, the year in which he died. He is not only an important figure in the history of California, but he is also remembered as a great and holy priest. He died in 1784 at Mission San Carlos Borromeo where he is buried. Pope John Paul II beatified him in 1988.



Mission Carmel

Besides converting the natives, the missionaries established schools where children were taught to read and write and sing. The boys were taught how to be farmers, carpenters, blacksmiths, shoemakers, and other trades. The girls were taught handcrafts, sewing, and cooking.

Two Great Schools

Spanish priests founded the first schools of higher learning in the Americas. In 1551, the University of San Marcos in Lima, Peru, was established. Two years later, the University of Mexico City was founded. These two great schools were established more than seventy-five years before Harvard College was founded. Another school, the College of Santa Cruz, was founded nearly two decades earlier in 1536. However, it no longer exists. It was closed at the beginning of the nineteenth century.

SPOT CHECK

1. What did Balboa discover?
2. What did Ponce de Leon explore?
3. Where did Magellan die?
4. What was unusual about Aztec civilization?
5. Who conquered the Aztec empire?
6. Who was Francisco Pizarro?
7. What did Hernando De Soto explore?
8. What were the first two universities established in the New World?

FRANCE IN THE NEW WORLD

The Early French Explorers

Giovanni Verrazano, an Italian seaman, was the first explorer sent out by France to find a new route to India. Early in 1524, he reached the North American coast. He probably explored as far north as Newfoundland. Though he did not establish any settlements, he gave France a claim to territory in the New World.

The next sailor France sent out to search for a new route to India was Jacques Cartier. In 1535, about ten years after Verrazano's voyage, he discovered the great St. Lawrence River. A year later, he returned to the St. Lawrence and established settlements at Quebec and Montreal. However, the French colonists were not prepared to resist the bitter cold of a Canadian winter. Many of them died. Both settlements were abandoned the following spring. Despite this difficulty, Cartier gave France her claim to the valley of the St. Lawrence River.

The First French Settlers

It was not until more than seventy years after Cartier's explorations that the French became serious about settling Canada. In 1608, Samuel de Champlain established the first permanent French settlement at Quebec. This was the first French settlement in North America and the start of

New France. Like the Spanish explorers, Champlain wished to have the Gospel preached to the natives. Therefore, he brought missionaries to Canada to teach the native peoples and to help them become Christians.

The explorations of Champlain took him as far west as Lake Michigan. He discovered Lakes Ontario and Huron. He found the lake that bears his name, Lake Champlain, in upstate New York. Truly he can be called the “Father of New France.”



Statue of Samuel de Champlain

Father Marquette and Joliet

Perhaps the most famous of the missionaries who came to New France was the French Jesuit Jacques Marquette. In 1673, he and Louis Joliet, a fur trader, set out to explore a great river that the natives called the “Father of Waters.” They wanted to learn whether this river, the Mississippi, flowed into the Atlantic, the Pacific, or the Gulf of Mexico. They hoped it was the long sought passage to India.

Accompanied by five French fur trappers, they paddled up the Fox River from Green Bay, Wisconsin. Then they carried their canoes over the divide into the Wisconsin River at a place now called Portage. Returning their canoes to the river, they paddled down that stream to the Mississippi. They traveled down the “Father of Waters” to the mouth of the Arkansas River. There Marquette and Joliet learned from the natives that the great river emptied into the Gulf of

Mexico and not into the Pacific Ocean. With this news, they turned back.

On the return voyage, they proceeded by way of the Illinois River to Lake Michigan. From there, they journeyed up the western shore to the mission of St. Francis Xavier. Here Marquette remained while Joliet traveled to Quebec to report the results of their trip. The next winter, Marquette returned to preach to the Indians in Illinois. However, hardship and overwork had broken his health. Within two years after his Mississippi expedition, he died. He gave his life working for the conversion of the natives. His remains lie at St. Ignace in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan.

Robert de La Salle

In 1682, Robert de La Salle explored the Mississippi River to the Gulf of Mexico. He and his band of twenty men started their journey from a point near the present city of Chicago. They sailed down the Chicago and Illinois Rivers until they reached the Mississippi. Then they sailed down the mighty river to its mouth. La Salle claimed the vast territory beyond both banks of the Mississippi in the name of France. He called the country Louisiana in honor of the king of France, Louis XIV.

After returning to Quebec, La Salle went to France to persuade the French king to establish a colony at the mouth of the Mississippi. The French king agreed and sent La Salle back to America in 1684 with four ships. The king knew the importance of controlling the Mississippi River if France were to hold on to her claim to the territory of Louisiana. Sadly, La Salle's efforts to found a colony failed. He could not find the mouth of the river. The ships landed at what is now Matagorda Bay in Texas. While attempting to reach the Mississippi by traveling over-land, some of his own men killed him.

Father Louis Hennepin

Franciscan priest Louis Hennepin was a close friend and companion of La Salle's. He accompanied La Salle on his famous trip,

traveling as far as the present city of Peoria. There the two separated. With two companions, Father Hennepin voyaged down the Illinois River to the Mississippi, which the trio then explored upstream. On this journey, they reached the present site of Minneapolis in Minnesota. Here Father Hennepin discovered and named the Falls of St. Anthony. Shortly after this discovery, the Sioux Indians captured the trio. The Sioux forced the three men to travel with them. Thankfully, Father Hennepin was later rescued, and he returned to Quebec and then to France.

The North American Martyrs

On the Mohawk River in New York state, some forty miles northwest of Albany, the state capital, stands a huge shrine. It is dedicated to the first canonized saints of North America. The shrine is located in the little town of Auriesville. Auriesville was once the home of the Iroquois Indians. The Iroquois were a fierce tribe. They lived in what is now upper New York state. Being excellent fighters, they subdued the tribes from the St. Lawrence to Tennessee and from Maine to Michigan.

Of the eight Jesuit martyrs of North America, six were priests and two were brothers. The Iroquois martyred Father Isaac Jogues and his companions Rene Goupil and John Lalande at Auriesville. The Iroquois also tortured and murdered Jean de Brebeuf and Gabriel Lalemant, who were doing missionary work on the shores of the Great



Shrine of the North American Martyrs, Auriesville

Lakes. The others were martyred in the West, where they were laboring among the Hurons. This devoted band of Jesuit martyrs was canonized June 29, 1930. The feast of these saints is celebrated on October 19th. It is called the “Feast of the North American Martyrs.”

SPOT CHECK

1. Who discovered the St. Lawrence River?
2. Who established the first permanent French settlement at Quebec?
3. Who is the Father of New France?
4. What did Robert de La Salle explore?
5. Why is Louis Hennepin famous?
6. Name three of the North American martyrs.

ENGLAND IN THE NEW WORLD

The First English Explorers

The Cabots, John and his son Sebastian, were England’s first explorers. In 1497, John Cabot, an Italian sailor working for the English king, set sail from the ancient port of Bristol in search of a new route to the East. He landed on what is probably Cape Bonavista. He claimed the country for England, believing that he had reached parts of Asia. When he returned to England, King Henry VII was so happy that he made him an admiral.

The next year, 1498, John Cabot and his son undertook another voyage. It is not exactly clear what they explored on this voyage. However, they probably explored the coast of North America as far south as Delaware. Even though the Cabots gave England her original claims to North America, their voyages were not considered successful. They had failed to bring back gold and riches from the newly discovered lands. They had failed also to find a new trade route to the East. For these reasons, King Henry VII lost interest in their discoveries. As a result, nearly seventy years passed before England sought to re-establish her claims in the New World.

Later Explorers

The stories of the gold and silver found in Mexico and Peru renewed English interest in the New World. Filled with a desire for some of the wealth that made Spain the richest nation in Europe, seamen began to search for a new route to the Orient. They hoped to find a northwest passage to Asia.

Among these seamen was the unsavory Martin Frobisher. He had engaged in the slave trade and had visited the Spanish colonies in Central America. There he had seen the treasure ships of Spain laden with silver and gold. He decided that it was easier to steal gold than to find it, so he became a pirate. He captured some of the Spanish treasure ships. Thus



began a practice that later led to widespread piracy among the English seamen.

Frobisher never did find a northwest passage. However, his travels took him to the great bay that is now called Hudson Bay. Other seamen continued the search, but they too failed. Of these, William Baffin and John Davis are the best known. They succeeded in exploring the northern coast of North America and in so doing, greatly strengthened England's claim to the New World. Though none of these explorers found a northwest route, the memory of their adventures lives today in such names as Frobisher Bay, Baffin Island, and Davis Strait.

EARLY ENGLISH ATTEMPTS TO SETTLE IN AMERICA

Conditions in England

Poverty and the chance for a better life did much to drive the English people to the shores of America. However, religious troubles were by far the greatest influence behind their coming to this country. When King Henry VIII of England broke away from the Catholic Church, there was widespread dissatisfaction. Good Catholics refused to join the Church of England because they knew that the pope alone is the head of the Church. Many years later, a number of Protestant groups withdrew from the Church of England. They demanded the right to establish their own church. Since the laws of England denied this to them, they looked to America as the land of hope.

Sir Humphrey Gilbert

The first Englishman who attempted to establish a colony in America was Sir Humphrey Gilbert. He set sail in 1578, but returned to England the following year, unsuccessful. Five years later in 1583, he attempted the voyage again. This time he was successful in reaching Newfoundland. He selected the site of the present city of St. John's

for his colony. Then he explored the coast southward. At last he had to turn back for home. Sadly, he never reached his destination. The little ship on which he sailed was lost during a storm.

Sir Walter Raleigh

Sir Humphrey's failure to establish a colony in America did not discourage his half brother, Sir Walter Raleigh. Raleigh believed that the warmer climate farther south in the New World would make that area much more suitable for colonization. He asked Queen Elizabeth to grant him the right to establish a settlement there. This she did.

Thus, in 1585, Raleigh sent out about one hundred settlers to found an English colony. They landed on Roanoke Island off the coast of North Carolina. For a little while all went well. However, the venture ended in failure. There was not enough food. Most of the colonists became homesick and went home to England.

In 1587, Raleigh fitted out a larger expedition. This group of nearly one hundred fifty persons, under the leadership of John White, landed at Roanoke. This settlement did not last long. Once again, the settlers began to run out of food. White went back to England for more. During his absence, the colony was destroyed. No trace of the settlers was ever found. The Roanoke colony has become known in history as the Lost Colony. It is possible that the colonists were attacked and killed by the natives. However, they may have left the colony of their own free will and become part of a friendly native tribe.



Sir Walter Raleigh

THE DUTCH IN THE NEW WORLD

Henry Hudson

The Dutch, like other European people, were eager to share in the rich trade of the Orient. They wanted to find a short route to India. However, it was not until 1609 that the *Half Moon*, a little Dutch ship commanded by Henry Hudson, sailed into what is now New York Harbor. Henry Hudson was an Englishman employed by the Dutch East India Company.

When Hudson entered the great broad river that now bears his name and made his way through the rocky cliffs called the Palisades, he thought he had found a new route to the East. He went up the river as far as the present city of Albany. There he turned back. He had failed to find a short route to the Orient. However, Hudson gave the Dutch a claim to the Hudson River valley and laid the foundation for an extensive fur trade with the Indians.



A replica of Henry Hudson's ship, the *Half Moon*

Dutch Settlements

In 1624, the Dutch West India Company founded the first permanent Dutch settlement in the territory that Hudson had claimed. They built their settlement on the south end of Manhattan Island. They called it New Amsterdam. Today it is known as New York City. A colony was established also at Albany. It was then called Fort Orange. These settlements were basically trading posts where the Dutch companies engaged in fur trade with the natives.

To hasten settlement of the land bordering the Hudson River, the Dutch West India Company offered to give large sections of land to anyone who would bring fifty adult settlers to America. Under this plan, thousands of acres of land on both sides of the Hudson were settled. Later, the entire area from the Delaware River to the Connecticut River was known as New Netherland.

SPOT CHECK

1. Who were England's first explorers in the New World?
2. What was the main reason England colonists came to the New World?
3. Where did Walter Raleigh establish a colony? What happened to it?

CHAPTER REVIEW

1. What did Balboa's discovery of the Pacific Ocean prove?
2. Why was Magellan's expedition of great historical importance?
3. Who was the conqueror of the Aztec empire?
4. Give two examples of the Satanic nature of the Aztec empire.
5. Who was the conqueror of the Inca empire?
6. Where and when were the first two universities in the Americas founded?
7. Whose explorations gave France a claim to Canada?
8. Who was called the "Father of New France"?
9. When and where was the first permanent French settlement in America established?
10. Who were England's first explorers in the New World?
11. What was the main reason that English people left England and settled in America?
12. Which explorer gave the Dutch their claims to the Hudson River valley?

THE SOUTHERN ENGLISH COLONIES ARE ESTABLISHED



The statue of John Smith stands watch over the harbor at Jamestown.

VIRGINIA

Trading Companies

At the beginning of the seventeenth century, there was a wealthy merchant class in England. These men always were looking for new ways in which to invest their money. One such venture was the trading company. A trading company allowed them to invest their money, but did not require them to run the business. One very successful trading company was the East India Company. It had been granted a charter and monopoly for trade with India. This suggested to investors the possibility of developing a colonial trade with the New World. America was known to be rich in natural resources. It was thought that exploiting

these resources would pay for the cost of sending and equipping expeditions for establishing colonies.

Some English merchants, in order to carry on trade with the New World, formed two companies: the London Company and the Plymouth Company. Each company appealed to King James I to grant a charter that would give the company legal claim to the land in America. The king agreed to the requests. Under these charters, the London Company was leased land along the southern section of the Atlantic coast. The Plymouth Company was granted territory along the northern section.

The Settlement of Jamestown

The London Company established the first permanent English settlement in America. Like Christopher Columbus, the English colonists came to the New World in three little boats: the *Susan Constant*, the *Godspeed*, and the *Discovery*. The London Company sent a band of about one hundred men to Virginia to mine gold. The company thought gold was plentiful in the New World. The company also hoped that the men would discover a passage across the American continent to Asia.

With these goals in mind, the colonists sailed into what is now called Chesapeake Bay. They sailed slowly up a river (the James) to a low marshy peninsula about thirty miles inland. Here, in 1607, they established their settlement, which they named Jamestown in honor of the king. However, it was a poor tribute to the king. In their eagerness to begin searching for gold, the colonists paid little attention to the building of homes. They built only a few crude huts, some tents, and an occasional log house. This lack of proper shelter and the dampness of the lowlands caused many of the settlers to become victims of malaria, a serious illness. Supplies and food ran low, and the colony was in serious trouble. Had it not been for the leadership of Captain John Smith, the colony probably would have been abandoned.

Captain John Smith

Captain John Smith was an experienced soldier. He knew how to meet and solve difficult problems. He realized more than anyone else that only hard work and sacrifice would allow the colony to survive. Therefore, he made a rule: “He that will not work shall not eat.” He saw to it that the rule was kept. Through the sheer force of his leadership, the colonists went to work. This hard-handed policy and Smith’s friendship with the Indians held the little band of colonists together. In the spring of 1609, some four hundred additional settlers arrived. However, they were no more motivated than the original group.

“The Starving Time”

Unfortunately, Smith met with an accident in a gunpowder explosion and returned to England for medical care. Jamestown was left without a leader. The situation became worse. The men refused to work. The Indians turned against them and food became scarce. All this happened during the winter following Smith’s departure. This period is known in the history of Virginia as “the starving time.” Most of the colonists died during these months. The few who survived prepared to return to England. However, as they were sailing down the James River for England, they met a ship. It brought a load of new colonists, supplies, and a new governor. This timely arrival was providential. It saved the colony.

The Colony Begins to Prosper

The leader of the new band of colonists was Lord de la Warr. However, he remained in Jamestown less than a year before ill health caused him to return to England. His replacement was Sir Thomas Dale. He was forced to rule with an iron hand, as sternness was necessary because so many of the colonists were useless. The system of having a common storehouse was abandoned, and each settler was

given a small farm. Instead of paying for the use of this land, each settler gave two and a half barrels of corn to the London Company every year. Everything else that he produced on the farm belonged to him. Hard working colonists liked this plan because of the possible profit they would be able to make on surplus crops. Lazy settlers knew that they would either work or starve. The settlers soon found that it paid to work, and the Virginia colony began to prosper.

The soil of Virginia was especially good for growing tobacco. Within ten years after the founding of Jamestown, tobacco had become its chief crop. England was a ready market, and the news of this success prompted ambitious farmers to immigrate to Virginia to share in the fortunes of the tobacco growers. Virginia continued to be a leading producer of tobacco.

The Beginning of Slavery

In 1619, the Dutch ship, *The White Lion*, arrived in Virginia. It carried twenty African slaves. (Sadly, at this time, African slavery was widely practiced in Latin America and the Caribbean.) The English needed workers and the Dutch needed supplies, so the Africans were traded to the English tobacco growers. The growers used them to work on their plantations. Over time, other traders brought Africans to Virginia and sold them to the colonists who needed laborers for their ever-expanding tobacco crops. This marked the beginning of slavery in the United States. It would result in serious problems for the nation.

SPOT CHECK

1. When was Jamestown established?
2. What leader of Jamestown is remembered for the rule "He that will not work shall not eat"?
3. How and when did slavery come to Virginia?

The Beginning of Self-government

The year 1619 is memorable for another happier reason. It marked the beginning of self-government in the colonies. The London Company's Charter had promised the colonists the same rights as those enjoyed by Englishmen in England. However, the settlers had not been given a voice in the government of Virginia. They now demanded representative government.

The House of Burgesses was the name of the first legislature in Virginia. It was composed of representatives called "burgesses." They were elected from each of the districts into which Virginia was divided. They met for the first time on July 30, 1619, in a small church in Jamestown to write the laws of Virginia. However, their power was limited. No act passed by the burgesses could become law without the governor's approval. Even so, this was the beginning of self-government and of representative government in America.



The House of Burgesses

The King Takes Back Virginia

King James began to receive negative reports from Virginia. He accused the London Company of bad management. He pointed out that

the Colony had not been properly protected from the Indians. Therefore, he took away its charter. He made Virginia a royal colony with a governor and council appointed by him. However, he did not stop the meetings of the House of Burgesses. The burgesses continued to meet and demand self-government.

MARYLAND

Seventeenth Century England

During the seventeenth century, Catholics in England suffered many hardships. They were forbidden to attend Mass or to provide for the education of their children. It was against the law for a priest to celebrate Mass. Catholics were forbidden to hold office or even to enter the city of London. In fact, many things including torture were done to force them to join the Church of England. However, England had been a Catholic country for almost nine hundred years. It was impossible to destroy the Faith of all the people. Good Catholics refused to join the Church of England.

A Refuge for Catholics in America

Due to the severe laws in England, Catholics looked to the New World as a place to practice their Faith and raise their children. George Calvert, the first Lord Baltimore, was a Catholic. He understood their problems and desires. Hence, he planned to found a settlement in America that would be a safe refuge for the persecuted Catholics in England.

Fortunately, Charles I had given Lord Baltimore a grant of land in America. This land would make an ideal refuge. It extended from the Potomac River and Chesapeake Bay to the place where Philadelphia is located today. It was named Maryland, in honor of the king's Catholic wife, Henrietta Maria. Lord Baltimore planned to make this colony a place where Catholics and Protestants could live in

peace and harmony. However, he died before he was able to carry out his plans. The work then fell to his son, Cecil Calvert, the second Lord Baltimore.

St. Mary's Settlement

In 1634, two small ships, the *Ark* and the *Dove*, brought the first settlers to Maryland; two English Jesuits, Father White and Father Altham, accompanied by about two hundred colonists. Leonard Calvert was the first governor of the colony. The group landed on the site that was later called St. Mary's. Here, on the Feast of the Annunciation, March 25, 1634, Father White celebrated the first Mass in the English-speaking New World. Here, too, a cross was planted as a symbol of belief in Christ. In describing this event, Father White wrote: "We raised a great cross as a trophy to Christ, Our Savior." Thus began the story of Maryland and St. Mary's.



Cecil Calvert and His Grandson

The colonists, Catholics and Protestants, lived at peace not only with one another but also with the Indians. The Indians showed the settlers how to plant corn and how to make corn meal and corn bread. With their help, the colonists did not go through a "starving time" as the settlers in Virginia had. In fact, the first crop of corn was so large that they were able to supply Massachusetts with a whole shipload. From the beginning, the Indians were interested in the Catholic Faith. Many became converts.

The Toleration Act

Among the first settlers of Maryland, there were no arguments over religious differences. Catholics and Protestants lived peacefully together. However, as the colony grew, Catholics feared persecution. More Protestants than Catholics were coming into the colony. Thus, it was decided to make freedom of religion part of the law in Maryland. In 1649, such a law was passed. The law stated that all Christians should enjoy religious freedom. It is, therefore, known as the Toleration Act.

This was the first law of its kind in the colonies. Sadly, it did not remain the law in Maryland. Five years later, when the Puritans came into power, they repealed the Toleration Act. This caused many abuses. Catholics were forbidden to hold public office. Churches were destroyed and the Jesuits were forced to leave the colony. Nearly ten years passed before the persecution of Catholics ended. Finally, in 1658, Lord Baltimore regained control of the colony. He restored religious freedom to the people of Maryland.

SPOT CHECK

1. What assembly was the beginning of self-government in America in 1619?
2. Where did it first meet?
3. Where and when was the first Mass celebrated by an English priest in the New World?

THE CAROLINAS

The Early Settlers

In 1653, long before Carolina became an English colony, frontiersmen from Virginia moved south. They settled near what is now Albemarle Sound. Some of these people had come in search of religious freedom. Some came because of the tobacco, corn, and other crops that could be produced for trade. Even the fur trader found opportunity in this land. Clearly the land was quite valuable.

In 1663, King Charles II gave eight of his friends, all English nobles, the authority to establish a colony in the Carolina country. News of the commercial possibilities there made the land very attractive. The king's friends pointed out that the land south of Virginia might be taken over by Spain and annexed to the colony in Florida. The king did not want to lose this valuable land to Spain. Thus, he gave the grant land to his eight friends. The land included in this grant was called "Carolina" to honor Charles ("Carolus" in Latin).

Division into Two Colonies

It was evident from the beginning that it was not practical to try to organize these colonies under one governor. The people in the northern colony came mostly from Pennsylvania and New England. The population of the southern colony was made up chiefly of English and French Protestants. The occupations of these two groups differed. Farming, weaving, and lace-making were the occupations of the north. Lumber, pitch, and tar were their chief products. In general, small working class farmers owned the land. In the south, however, planters owned large estates and lived in comparative luxury. They delegated the care of their estates to an overseer. He, in turn, depended on slaves to do the work. Rice and indigo (a blue dye made from the indigo plant) were among the main products.

Thus, in Carolina, there were two distinct, widely separated settlements. One was located near Albemarle Sound and the other was located farther south in Charleston, which had been settled in 1670. There were few roads and little communication between the two major settlements. The settlers in the north found it easier to deal with Virginia. Those in the south looked to England for their trade. Therefore, when Carolina became a royal colony in 1729, it was only natural for the king to divide it into two parts. The

northern section received the name North Carolina. The southern part became known as South Carolina. Each colony had its own governor and assembly.

Georgia

Georgia was the last English colony to be settled. In 1732, 125 years after the founding of Jamestown, King George II gave the land between the present-day Savannah River and Florida to James Oglethorpe. This grant of land was intended to serve two purposes. First, it was to be a buffer against the Spanish Catholics in Florida. Second, it was to be a refuge for inmates of the English debtor prisons.

Oglethorpe's Plan

Though Oglethorpe realized the importance of using Georgia as an outpost against Florida, he was more interested in the good that could be done for the poor English debtors. At that time, the English prisons were crowded with people who had been thrown into prison and punished for failing to pay their debts. The law stated that they were to be kept in prison until their debts were paid or until the creditors withdrew their claims. This method seems quite unjust, if not absurd. As prisoners, these debtors could earn no money. Therefore, they had no real hope of obtaining their release from prison. Oglethorpe asked the king to allow him to take some of these men to America where they could start new lives. The king agreed.

Although the plan had been to take mostly prisoners, over time Oglethorpe sought out the deserving poor both in and out of prison. In 1733, Oglethorpe established a colony at the mouth of the Savannah River. The colony was called Georgia in honor of King George II.

Oglethorpe and twenty other trustees governed Georgia. During the few years Oglethorpe was present in Georgia, the colony prospered. He made allies of the neighboring Indians. He was able to fix the

boundary between Georgia and Florida to the advantage of England. However, when he returned to England in 1743, the trustees, who were all in England, neglected the colony. They imposed many harsh rules upon the colonists. Finally, in 1752, the colony was taken over by the king and made a royal province.

Unfortunately, Catholics never enjoyed freedom in Georgia. They were not allowed to vote or hold public office. They were even denied freedom of worship. In fact, there were raids by the Protestants in Georgia against the Catholic Indian settlements in Florida.



James Oglethorpe

SPOT CHECK

1. Why was the colony of Carolina divided into North Carolina and South Carolina?
2. What were James Oglethorpe's two reasons for establishing the colony of Georgia?

CHAPTER REVIEW

1. When and where was the first permanent English settlement made?
2. What did John Smith do to make Jamestown succeed?
3. How did slavery start in Virginia? What year did it start?
4. What was the House of Burgesses?
5. Who founded Maryland?
6. What was the first settlement started in Maryland?
7. What was the Maryland Toleration Act of 1649?
8. Why was Carolina divided into two colonies?
9. What were the purposes of the founding of Georgia? How did these differ from those of the other colonies?

THE NEW ENGLAND AND MIDDLE ENGLISH COLONIES ARE ESTABLISHED



Mayflower lies at anchor on Cape Cod, Massachusetts, in 1620.

THE NEW ENGLAND COLONIES

Religious Conditions in England

While Elizabeth was Queen of England (1558-1603), Protestantism became the official religion of England. The English law forced people to become members of the Church of England. Everyone was required to attend that church whether they believed in it or not. Everyone was required to help support it. Those who refused were subject to persecution and death.

There was opposition on the part of both Catholics and some Protestants to these laws. Some of the Protestants refused to belong to the Church of England or to support it. They believed that they should not be subject to the authority of the state church. They claimed that they had the right to separate and establish a church of their own. For this reason, they called themselves Separatists or Independents.

The English government bitterly opposed the Separatists. Their leaders were punished. In some cases, they were heavily fined and imprisoned. Whenever possible, their meetings were broken up.

As a result of the persecutions, some of the Separatists left England seeking freedom of religion. They went to Holland, where they lived and worked. However, when they saw their children acquiring Dutch customs, they became alarmed because they wanted them to remain English. For this reason, in 1620, they decided to leave Holland and go to America. They hoped that in America, they would preserve not only English customs for their children but also the opportunity to enjoy religious freedom. Due to their wanderings, these people were called “Pilgrims.”



The Pilgrims leave Plymouth, England, for Holland.

MASSACHUSETTS

The Pilgrims in America

Ships have played a vital role in the story of the discovery and settlement of our country. The story of Columbus and his discovery of the New World would be lacking without his three caravels: the

Niña, the *Pinta*, and the *Santa Maria*. The settlement of Jamestown could hardly be told without reference to the *Susan Constant*, the *Godspeed*, and the *Discovery*. The *Ark* and the *Dove* were central parts of the story of the founding of Maryland. So, too, the story of the Pilgrims would be incomplete without their tiny ship, the historic *Mayflower*.

The westward journey of the *Mayflower*, with its one-hundred-and-two hardy souls, was difficult. For sixty-seven days, the little ship tossed about on a stormy sea. The creaking timbers and noisy rigging often caused the Pilgrims to wonder whether they would ever reach their destination. Finally, on November 21, 1620, the ship dropped anchor in the quiet harbor of present-day Provincetown on Cape Cod in Massachusetts.

Before setting sail for America, the Pilgrims had agreed to settle on land owned by the London Company. However, their landing at Cape Cod was north of their intended goal. It was beyond the London Company's territory. Nevertheless, they searched the coast of the bay for a suitable spot to make a permanent settlement. On December 21, 1620, their exploring party made the historic first landing at a spot later named Plymouth, after Plymouth in England.

The Pilgrims' plan of government was based on an agreement that all the men had signed on board the *Mayflower* while it was still anchored in Provincetown Harbor. This agreement is known as the Mayflower Compact. In this document, the Pilgrims pledged themselves to enact and obey "just and equal laws" for the general good of the colony. Their government was to depend upon the will of the people. This was an historic decision and is considered an important step in the history of democracy. John Carver was chosen governor. Miles Standish was chosen its military leader.



The Pilgrims sign the Mayflower Compact.

Life in Plymouth

It was winter when the Pilgrims landed on the New England shore. The weather was cold and more severe than in England. Food was scarce, and the Pilgrims' first winter was one of sickness and terrible suffering. About half of them died, yet they were determined to make Plymouth their home. When the *Mayflower* returned to England in the spring, only the crew was on board. Not one Pilgrim returned to England.

In the spring, friendly Indians showed the colonists how to plant corn. The Pilgrims also raised grains, pumpkins, beans, and peas. God blessed their work, and when they harvested their crops, the Pilgrims gathered to give thanks for the abundant crops. Even the Indians came to the Thanksgiving feast, bringing wild turkeys and deer. Thus, in time, a day of thanksgiving became a custom in America. Thanksgiving Day is a national holiday celebrated on the fourth Thursday in November.

The Puritans

The Puritans were Protestants who wanted to simplify and purify the services of the Church of England. They wanted to do away with everything that made worship beautiful, especially with everything that reminded them of true Catholic practices. For example, they did not like organ music, or the use of the Sign of the Cross, or kneeling. They regarded these practices as evil and thought that any action taken to stamp them out was justified. By destroying these practices, they wanted to make their church more “pure.” For this reason they were called “Puritans.”

As a result of their stern views and willingness to use violence to enforce their views, many people in England disliked the Puritans quite a bit. Even the king opposed them. He did not want them to interfere with the Church of England. Thus, when they asked the king for a grant of land in America, he gave it to them willingly just to be rid of them.

The Massachusetts Bay Company

In 1627, a grant was made to a group of Puritans organized as the Massachusetts Bay Company. The next year, under the leadership of John Endicott, some fifty Puritan colonists settled at Salem, a previously established settlement. The grant of land that they obtained from the king lay between a point three miles north of the Merrimac River and a point three miles south of the Charles River. This was a strip of land about sixty miles wide. It extended westward, all the way west to the Pacific Ocean. The charter gave the Massachusetts Bay Company the same rights that the London Company had in Jamestown.

The Puritans began to arrive in large numbers in 1630. They came prepared to stay. They brought horses, cows, sheep, pigs, farm implements, and fishing equipment.

The Settlement of Boston

John Winthrop, the governor of the Massachusetts Bay Company, reached Salem in 1630. However, in his desire to establish a settlement of his own, he moved to the present site of Boston. He was accompanied by a large group of Puritans. At first, the settlement was called Tri-mountain, or Tremont, because of the three surrounding hills. However, the name was soon changed to Boston in memory of the Puritans' home in England.

The settlers made their living by farming and fishing. Cod were especially plentiful and, because of this, the point of land that stretches out into Massachusetts Bay was named Cape Cod. This area is still known for its cod, a prevalent fish in the cape. Shipbuilding, too, has flourished since the founding of Massachusetts.

The Puritans and Religious Freedom

Although the Puritans came to America seeking religious freedom, they were completely intolerant of other religions. In fact, there was no such thing as religious freedom in the colony that they founded. They especially disliked Catholics and Quakers. Catholic priests were forbidden to enter the colony. The Puritans flogged and imprisoned any Quakers who came into the colony. Everyone was forced to attend the Puritan church and everyone was required to support the Puritan church, whether or not they belonged to it.

John Winthrop was completely opposed to democracy. He said it was “the meanest and worst of all forms of government.” Those who wanted to be tolerant objected to his prejudice and to the practices of the Puritans. As a result, people who desired to get away from the intolerance of the Massachusetts settlements founded Rhode Island and Connecticut.

SPOT CHECK

1. Who were the “Pilgrims”? Why were they called by that name?
2. What document is often considered the foundation of democratic government in America?
3. Who was Miles Standish?
4. What caused some colonists to leave Massachusetts for Rhode Island and Connecticut?

RHODE ISLAND

Roger Williams

Rhode Island owes its beginning to Roger Williams. He was a young preacher who strongly opposed the intolerance of the Massachusetts Puritans. Although he was more accepting of other Christians and did not hesitate to criticize the Puritan leaders, his tolerance did not extend to Catholics. He also claimed that the king had no right to give away land in America. He insisted that the land belonged to the Indians, and that they should be paid for it. His ideas caused him to be banished from Massachusetts. He was ordered to return to England. However, he refused to obey the order. Instead, in 1636, he and his followers secretly went to the region at the head of Narragansett Bay. There he purchased land from the Indians. He called the settlement Providence and invited people who desired political and religious freedom to come to his colony. Catholics, however, were not welcome.

About this same time, Mrs. Anne Hutchinson, another exile from Massachusetts, founded Portsmouth on the island of Aquidneck, southeast of Providence. Later, other dissenting groups founded Newport on the southern part of the island. The settlements founded by Roger Williams and Anne Hutchinson, combined with Newport, grew into the colony of Rhode Island. In 1644, Williams went to England and obtained a charter from the king. The charter united these settlements and gave the people the right to govern themselves.

CONNECTICUT

Thomas Hooker

In 1636, the same year that Roger Williams fled from the Massachusetts colony, Thomas Hooker, a Puritan minister of Cambridge, Massachusetts, founded a new colony in the valley of the Connecticut River. Hooker had criticized the Puritan government for limiting the right to vote to church members. With about one hundred men, women, and children, he traveled through the wilderness of western Massachusetts. It took them about two weeks to reach the Connecticut River. Transporting their household goods on carts or on the backs of horses and driving their few cows, they traveled to the site of present-day Hartford. Dissatisfied Puritan groups from Massachusetts had already established two other settlements: Windsor and Wethersfield.

In 1638, representatives from Hartford, Windsor, and Wethersfield, met at Hartford. They drew up a plan of government



Thomas Hooker and his followers travel through the wilderness.

that they called the Fundamental Orders of Connecticut. The Orders, adopted in 1639, were based on the common consent of the people. Among its good points, the Orders did not require a religious test for citizenship. Most significant was that the Orders established government by written law. When disputes arose, the Fundamental Orders were the written law that would provide the answer. The answer did not depend upon the opinions of the members of the lawmaking assembly. The government was organized under a system of written principles and laws. It was organized under a “constitution.” This would later become one of the basic ideas of government behind the Constitution of the United States. The Fundamental Orders are considered the first constitution in North America.

In 1662, the king granted Connecticut a charter based on the Fundamental Orders. Due to the tolerant policy of the charter, it served as the constitution for Connecticut until the early part of the nineteenth century.

Maine and New Hampshire

Various groups and companies claimed the northern New England coast. After a while, it became a part of Massachusetts. However, in 1679, New Hampshire became independent of Massachusetts. Dissatisfied Puritans and fishermen, who founded Dover and Portsmouth, settled New Hampshire. Later, the king gave the land to two of his friends: Gorges and Mason. Six years after these settlements were established, they divided the land between them. Mason took the western part and kept the name New Hampshire. Gorges took the eastern part and called it Maine. For protection, both colonies were soon joined to Massachusetts. Later, New Hampshire became a separate colony again, one of the original thirteen colonies. Maine, however, remained a part of Massachusetts until it was admitted to the Union in 1820.

UNION FOR PROTECTION

The Pequot Indian War

The Pequot Indians lived in the land that is now the state of Connecticut. They were a tribe of hunters and deeply resented the coming of the settlers. They became fiercely angry when the settlers moved into their hunting grounds. To defend their land, they killed many settlers. In 1637, the settlers of Massachusetts and Connecticut attacked the tribe and almost wiped them out.

In 1675, King Philip, chief of the Wampanoag Indians, secretly united the tribes of New England and attacked the colonists. The war lasted two years. However, with the united forces of the New England Confederation, the Indians were defeated. King Philip was killed, and the power of the Indians was broken.

The New England Confederation

In 1643, six years after the first of the Pequot Indians' wars, the colonists of Plymouth, Massachusetts Bay, Connecticut, and New



King Philip urges the Indians to resist.

Haven organized the New England Confederation. These colonies united for protection not only against the Indians, but also against the threat of the French on the north and the Dutch on the south. The Confederation was a committee composed of representatives from the four colonies. It had the power “to determine all affairs of war or peace, leagues, aids, charges, and numbers of men for war.” In reality, it was a union of colonies which contained the seed of a United States of America.

The Confederation lasted from 1643 to 1684. Had it not been for the Confederation, the Indians might have driven the colonists out of New England. Though it is chiefly important for the role it played in the defeat of the Indians, the Confederation also taught the colonists the advantages of united action.

SPOT CHECK

1. Name the two founders of the colony of Rhode Island.
2. Who was Thomas Hooker?
3. Give two reasons why the Fundamental Orders of Connecticut are important.
4. Which New England state today was not part of the original thirteen colonies?

THE MIDDLE COLONIES

A Wedge Separating the English Colonies

The southern colonies and the New England colonies had been founded and settled by English colonists. Between these two groups of English colonies were colonies established by the Dutch in New York and New Jersey, and by the Swedes in Delaware. The Dutch and Swedish colonies formed a wedge that separated the southern from the northern English colonies. However, disagreements and quarrels soon arose between the Dutch and the Swedes. Only a few years after it was founded, the Dutch occupied the Swedish colony. The Dutch made it a part of the colony of New

Netherlands. Not many years later, the Dutch, in turn, were forced to surrender all of New Netherlands to the English. Eventually, all the colonies along the Atlantic coast from New Hampshire to Georgia became English possessions.

NEW YORK

The English in Control in New York

Although the Dutch were the first to settle New York, the English denied that the Dutch ever had any claim to the territory called New Netherlands. They knew that Holland had done little to support Peter Stuyvesant, the Dutch governor. They knew also that New Amsterdam (present-day New York City) was poorly protected and that Stuyvesant was unable to defend the colony. Thus, when war broke out between England and Holland, the English



New Netherlands surrenders. Stuyvesant had lost his leg in battle in the West Indies.

government sent a fleet to capture New Amsterdam. Stuyvesant was helpless. He was unable to arouse the people to take up arms against the English. As a consequence, in spite of his brave words, “I would rather be carried to my grave,” he was forced to surrender without a shot having been fired in defense of his territory. In 1664, all New Netherlands passed from Dutch to English control. The name of the colony was changed to New York in honor of the king’s brother, the Duke of York.

However, English control did not destroy the influence of the Dutch. The Dutch remained on their farms. They continued to live as before, retaining many of their Dutch customs. They played an important part in their new homeland. In fact, some of the old Dutch families, such as the Vanderbilts, the Schuylers, and the Roosevelts, have been among America’s prominent families. Three of our presidents were descendants of the early Dutch: Martin Van Buren, Theodore Roosevelt, and Franklin Delano Roosevelt.

Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha (1656-1680)

The history of early New York would be not be complete without the name of Kateri Tekakwitha. Since the Mohawk Indians were allies of the Protestant English, they opposed Catholic missionaries preaching to them. The Mohawks killed many missionaries. Yet it was to the Mohawks that the saintly Kateri Tekakwitha belonged. She is called the “Lily of the



Bl. Kateri Tekakwitha

Mohawks.” Jesuit missionaries instructed this lovely Indian girl in the Faith at Fonda, near Auriesville, New York, in 1667. Following her baptism, she spent the rest of her life on a reservation for Christian Indians. She died at the age of twenty-four after a life of great sanctity. Pope John Paul II beatified her on June 22, 1980. She is the patroness of ecology and the environment.

NEW JERSEY

Origin of the Colony of New Jersey

The Dutch colony of New Netherlands included what is now New York and New Jersey. When this territory passed into the hands of the English in 1664, the Duke of York kept New York and gave the other section to two of his friends, Lord Berkeley and Sir George Carteret. This grant of land lay between the lower Hudson and Delaware rivers. The new owners called it New Jersey in honor of Carteret. He had been lieutenant governor of the island of Jersey in the English Channel.

Though the colony of New Jersey was thinly settled, its people were of many nationalities and religions. It was, therefore, more tolerant than some of its neighbors. As a result, it attracted many settlers from Europe. Its growth was not rapid, however, until the arrival of English settlers. In 1665, Elizabethtown was settled. One year later, Puritans from New Haven, Connecticut, founded Newark.

The Division of the Colony

In 1674, New Jersey was divided into East Jersey and West Jersey. East Jersey belonged to Carteret and West Jersey went to Berkeley. After some years, the two men sold their holdings to the Quakers. Naturally, these changes caused much confusion. The settlers claimed that they had purchased their land directly from the

Indians and therefore owed no duties to the holders. To avoid further trouble, the territory was returned to the English crown in 1702. Meanwhile, it retained its own assembly. However, for a number of years, the governor of New York controlled it. Later, it became a separate colony again and took its place among the original thirteen colonies.

PENNSYLVANIA

The Quakers in Pennsylvania

The Quakers are a religious sect. They call themselves the Society of Friends because they believe that all people are friends. They do not believe that ministers or priests are needed. A meetinghouse and the practice of brotherly love is all that is necessary. They believe that everyone is equal and, as a result, they refuse to address a nobleman as “Sir” or “Lord” and address everyone as “Friend,” from the lowest person to the king himself. They refuse to serve in the army or navy because they consider war unlawful.

The Quakers’ beliefs caused them to be severely persecuted by the English. However, the more they were persecuted, the more they were determined to practice their beliefs. They refused to change their ways. They became stronger and stronger and their numbers grew larger. Among them was William Penn, the son of a distinguished Admiral in the British navy. William used his influence to find a refuge for the Quakers in America.

William Penn

Young William Penn joined the Quakers at the age of 22. From the beginning, he was interested not only in the doctrines of the Society of Friends but also in its future. This displeased his father very much. When William refused to sever his membership



William Penn's Treaty with the Indians, by Benjamin West

with the Quakers, the elder Penn drove his son from home. However, when his father died, he willed all his property to his son. Part of the estate of Admiral Penn was a claim of 16,000 pounds that he had loaned to King Charles II of England.

This inheritance helped William establish a colony for the Quakers in America. Instead of asking the king for the money, Penn requested a grant of land in America. King Charles gladly agreed to this easy way of paying the debt. The grant that Penn received contained more than 40,000 square miles. It was named Pennsylvania, which means Penn's woods. When Penn objected to the name, the king replied that he was naming the land in honor of William's father.

Philadelphia Is Settled

In 1681, three shiploads of colonists, led by William Markham, Penn's cousin, came to Pennsylvania. A year later, Penn himself came with one hundred more settlers, most of whom were Quakers. A site was selected between the Delaware and Schuylkill rivers. On this site, Philadelphia, the "City of Brotherly Love," had its beginning. Its splendid harbor and friendly atmosphere soon made it a brisk trade center for the colonies. It grew and prospered beyond Penn's expectations. It quickly became the largest city in the colonies. Swedes, Welsh, Germans, Irish, and Scots settled in Philadelphia. Catholics and Protestants alike found refuge in the Quaker colony.

The Mason-Dixon Line

Around 1730, trouble arose over the boundary between Maryland and Pennsylvania. Maryland claimed that the Pennsylvania line extended into territory that belonged to the Maryland colony. In 1767, two surveyors, Mason and Dixon, finally set the boundary line. It became known as the Mason-Dixon line. After the War of Independence, it became the dividing line between the free states and the slave states.

DELAWARE

A Colorful History

Delaware lies on the Delaware Peninsula between the Chesapeake and Delaware Bays. Its name comes from Lord de la Warr, an early governor of Virginia. In 1610, his ships, while on their way to Virginia, were blown off course. They were blown into the bay that the sailors called Delaware.

The Indians destroyed the first settlement in Delaware, which the Dutch made in 1631. In 1638, the Swedes created the first

permanent settlement. They called it Fort Christina, in honor of the Swedish queen. The colony was called New Sweden and lasted until 1655. In 1655, it was taken over by Peter Stuyvesant, the governor of New Netherlands. However, he was forced to surrender it to the Duke of York in 1664.

In 1682, it became a part of Pennsylvania. It shared the same government as Pennsylvania until 1776, when it became the independent state of Delaware.

SPOT CHECK

1. What colonies were founded by the Dutch and the Swedes?
2. Who was Peter Stuyvesant?
3. Who was Kateri Tekakwitha?
4. What religious group founded Pennsylvania?
5. How did William Penn obtain the land for Pennsylvania?
6. What does the name "Philadelphia" mean?
7. How did Delaware get its name?

CHAPTER REVIEW

1. Why did the Pilgrims leave Holland and come to America?
2. Where did the Pilgrims land when they arrived in America?
3. What is the significance of the Mayflower Compact?
4. What colonies were founded as a result of religious intolerance in Massachusetts?
5. Who founded Rhode Island?
6. Who founded Connecticut?
7. What was the purpose of the New England Confederation?
8. When and why was the name New Netherland changed to New York?
9. Who is known as the "Lily of the Mohawks"?
10. Who founded Pennsylvania? To what religious group did he belong?
11. Who settled Delaware?