

The Second Virginia Charter (May 23, 1609)

Historical Background of Document:

The Virginia Company of London was a joint-stock company set up by a group of merchants and wealthy gentlemen as a means to finance and establish a colony in America. Joint-stock companies sold shares of stock to venturers and enabled them to share the great expense and high risk of founding colonies as business enterprises. The logistics of sharing in the economic expenses and risks did not mean there were not strong religious motivations that propelled the early settlers. They petitioned England's King James I to grant them a charter, which he did more than a year later in 1606, and then again in 1609 and 1612. These charters gave the Virginia Company the authority to establish and govern a colony on the coast of America. The Second Charter was given exclusively to the Virginia Company of London.

Text of Document:

James, by the grace of God [King of England, Scotland, France and Ireland, defender of the faith, etc.] To all [to whom these presents shall come, greeting.]

Whereas, at the humble suite and request of sundry our loving and well disposed subjects intending to deduce a colony and to make habitation and plantation of sundry of our people in that part of America commonly called Virginia, and other part and territories in America either appertaining unto us or which are not actually possessed of any Christian prince or people within certain bound and regions, we have formerly, by our letters patents bearing date the tenth of April in the fourth year of our reign of England, France, and Ireland, and the nine and thirtieth of Scotland, granted to Sir Thomas Gates, Sir George Somers and others, for the more speedy accomplishment of the said plantation and habitation, that they should divide themselves into two colonies, the one consisting of divers Knights, gentlemen, merchants and others of our city of London, called the First Colony; and the other of sundry Knights, gentlemen and others of the cities of Bristoll, Exeter, the town of Plymouth, and other places, called the Second Colony and have yielded and granted main and sundry privileges and liberties to each Colony for their quiet settling and good government therein, as by the said letters patents more at large appeareth.

Now, forasmuch as divers and sundry of our loving subjects, as well adventurers as planters, of the said First Colony (which have already engaged themselves in furthering the business of the said plantation and do further intend by the assistance of Almighty God to prosecute the same to a happy end) have of late been humble suiters unto us that, in respect of their great charges and the adventure of many of their lives which they have hazarded in the said discovery and plantation of the said country, we would be pleased to grant them a further enlargement and explanation of the said grant, privilege and liberties, and that such counsellors and other officers may be appointed amongst them to manage and direct their affairs [as] are willing and ready to adventure with them; as also whose

dwellings are not so far remote from the city of London but that they may at convenient times be ready at hand to give advice and assistance upon all occasions requisite.

We, greatly affecting the effectual prosecution and happy success of the said plantation and comending their good desires therein, for their further encouragement in accomplishing so excellent a work, much pleasing to God and profitable to our Kingdoms, do, of our special grace and certain knowledge and mere motion, for us, our heirs and successors, give, grant and confirm to our trusted and well beloved subjects,

Robert, Earle of Salisburie [Salisbury]
Thomas, Earle of Suffolke [Suffolk]
Henrie, Earle of Southampton
William. Earle of Pembroke [Henrie]
[Henrie] Earle of Lincolne [Lincoln]
Henrie, Earle of Dorsett [Dorset]
Thomas, Earle of Exeter
Phillipp, Earle of Mountgommery
Robert, Lord Vicount Lisle
Theophilus, Lord Howard of Walden
James Mountague, Lord Bishopp of Bathe and Wells
Edward, Lord Zouche
Thomas, Lord Lawarr
Wiliam, Lord Mounteagle
Raphe, Lord Ewre
Edmond, Lord Sheffield [Sheffield]
Grey, Lord Shandis [Chandois]
[Grey], Lord Compton
John, Lord Petre
John, Lord Stanhope
George, Lord Carew
Sir Humfrey Welde, Lord Mayor of London [Weld]
George Pertie, Esquire [Percie]
Sir Edward Cecill, Knight [Cecil]
Sir George Wharton, Knight
Frauncis West, Esquire
Sir William Waade, Knight [Wade]
Sir Henrie Nevill, Knight [Nevil]
Sir Thomas Smithe, Knight [Smith]
Sir Oliver Cromwell, Knight
Sir Peter Manwood, Knight
Sir Dru Drurie, Knight [Drury]
Sir John Scott, Knight [Scot]
Sir Thomas Challouer, Knight [Challoner]
Sir Robert Drurie, Knight [Drury]
Sir Anthonye Cope, Knight
Sir Horatio Veere, Knight [Vere]

Sir Edward Conwaie, Knight [Conway]
Sir William Browne [Brown]
Sir Maurice Barkeley, Knight [Berkeley]
Sir Roberte Maunsell, Knight [Mansel]
Sir Amias Presou, Knight [Preston]
Sir Thomas Gates, Knight
Sir Anthonie Ashley, Knight [Ashly]
Sir Michaell Sandes, Knight [Sandys]
Sir Henrie Carew, Knight [Carey]
Sir Stephen Soame, Knight
Sir Calisthenes Brooke, Knight
Sir Edward Michelborne, Knight [Michelborn]
Sir John Racliffe, Knight [Ratcliffe]
Sir Charles Willmott, Knight [Wilmot]
Sir George Moore, Knight [Moor]
Sir Hugh Wirrall, Knight [Wirral]
Sir Thomas Dennys, Knight [Dennis]
Sir John Hollis, Knight [Holles]
Sir William Godolphin, Knight
Sir Thomas Monnson, Knight [Monson]
Sir Thomas Ridgwaie, Knight [Ridgwine]
Sir John Brooke, Knight
Sir Roberte Killigrew, Knight
Sir Henrie Peyton, Knight
Sir Richard Williamson, Knight
Sir Ferdinando Weynman, Knight
Sir William St. John, Knight
Sir Thomas Holcrofte, Knight [Holcroft]
Sir John Mallory, Knight
Sir Roger Ashton, Knight
Sir Walter Cope, Knight
Sir Richard Wigmore, Knight
Sir William Cooke, Knight [Coke]
Sir Herberte Crofte, Knight
Sir Henrie Faushawe, Knight [Fanshaw]
Sir John Smith, Knight
Sir Francis Wolley, Knight
Sir Edward Waterhouse, Knight
Sir Henrie Sekeford, Knight [Seekford]
Sir Edward Saudes, Knights [Edwin Sandys]
Sir Thomas Wayneman, Knight [Waynam]
Sir John Trevor, Knight
Sir Warrwick Heale, Knight [Heele]
Sir Robert Wroth, Knight
Sir John Townnesende, Knight [Townsend]
Sir Christopher Perkins, Knight

Sir Daniell Dun, Knight
Sir Henrie Hobarte, Knight [Hobart]
Sir Franncis Bacon, Knight
Sir Henrie Mountague, Knight [Montague]
Sir Georg Coppin, Knight
Sir Samuell Sandes, Knight [Sandys]
Sir Thomas Roe, Knight
Sir George Somers, Knight
Sir Thomas Freake, Knight
Sir Thomas Horwell, Knight [Harwell]
Sir Charles Kelke, Knight
Sir Baptist Hucks, Knight [Hicks]
Sir John Watts, Knight
Sir Roberte Carey, Knight
Sir William Romney, Knight
Sir Thomas Middleton, Knight
Sir Hatton Cheeke, Knight
Sir John Ogle, Knight
Sir Cavallero Meycot, Knight
Sir Stephen Riddlesden, Knight [Riddleston]
Sir Thomas Bludder, Knight
Sir Anthonie Aucher, Knight
Sir Robert Johnson, Knight
Sir Thomas Panton, Knight
Sir Charles Morgan, Knight
Sir Stephen Powle, Knight [Pole]
Sir John Burlacie, Knight
Sir Christofer Cleane, Knight [Cleave]
Sir George Hayward, Knight
Sir Thomas Dane, Knight [Davis]
Sir Thomas Dutton, Knight [Sutton]
Sir Anthonie Forrest, Knight [Forest]
Sir Robert Payne, Knight
Sir John Digby, Knight
Sir Dudley Diggs, Knight [Digges]
Sir Rowland Cotton, Knight
Doctour Mathewe Rutcliffe [Sutcliffel
Doctor Meddowes [Meadows]
Doctor Tumer
Doctor Poe
Captaine Pagnam
Captaine Jeffrey Holcrofte
Captaine Raunne [Romney]
Captaine Henrie Spry
Captaine Shelpton [Shelton]
Captaine Spark [Sparks]

[Captain] Thomas Wyatt [Wyat]
Captaine Brinsley
Captaine William Courtney
Captaine Herbert
Captaine Clarke
Captaine Dewhurst
Captaine John Blundell
Captaine Frier [Fryer]
Captaine Lewis Orwell
Captaine Edward Lloyd [Loyd]
Captaine Slingsby
Captaine Huntley [Hawley]
Captaine Orme
Captaine Woodhouse
Captaine Mason
Captaine Thomas Holcroft
Captaine John Cooke [Coke]
Captaine Hollis [Holles]
Captaine William Proude
Captaine Henrie Woodhouse
Captaine Richard Lindeley [Lindesey]
Captaine Dexter
Captaine William Winter
Captaine Herle [Pearsel]
Captain John Bingham
Captaine Burray
Captaine Thomas Conway [Conway]
Captaine Rookwood
Captaine William Lovelace
Captaine John Ashley
Captaine Thomas Wynne
Captaine Thomas Mewtis
Captaine Edward Harwood
Captaine Michael Evered [Everard]
Captaine Connoth [Comock]
Captaine Miles [Mills]
Captaine Pigott [Pigot]
Captaine Edward Maria Wingfeild [Wingfield]
Captaine ChristopherNewporte [Newport]
Captaine John Siclemore, alias Ratcliffe [Sicklemore]
Captaine John Smith
Captyn John Martyn [Martin]
Captaine Peter Wynne
Captaine Waldoe [Waldo]
Captyn Thomas Wood
Captaine Thomas Button

George Bolls, Esquire, Sheriffe of London
William Crashawe, [Clerk], Bachelor of Divinite
William Seabright, Esquire
Christopher Brook, Esquire
John Bingley, Esquire
Thomas Watson, Esquire
Richard Percivall, Esquire [Percival]
John Moore, Esquire
Hugh Brooker, Esquire
David Waterhouse, Esquire [Woodhouse]
Anthonie Auther, Esquier [Aucher]
Roberte Bowyer, Esquire [Boyer]
Raphe Ewens, Esquire
Zacharie Jones, Esquire
George Calvert, Esquire
William Dobson, Esquire
Henry Reynold, Esquire [Reynolds]
Thomas Walker, Esquire
Anthonie Barnars, Esquire
Thomas Sandes, Esquire [Sandys]
Henrie Sand, Esquire [Sandys]
Richard Sand [Sandys], Sonne of Sir Edwin Sandes [Sandys]
William Oxenbridge, Esquire
John Moore, Esquire
Thomas Wilson, Esquire
John Bullocke, Esquire [Bullock]
John Waller, [Esquire]
Thomas Webb
Jehughe Robinson
William Brewster
Robert Evelyn
Henrie Dabenie [Danby]
Richard Hacklewte, minister [Hackluit]
John Eldred, marchaunt [Eldrid]
William Russell, marchaunt
John Merrick, marchaunt
Richard Bannester, merchant [Banister]
Charles Anthonie, goldsmithe [Anthony]
John Banck [Banks]
William Evans
Richard Humble
Robert Chamberleyne, marchaunt [Richard Chamberlayne]
Thomas Barber, marchaunt
Richard Pevyrell, merchaunt [Pomet]
John Fletcher, merchant
Thomas Nicholls, merchant

John Stoak, merchaunt [Stoke]
Gabiell Archer
Franncis Covell [Covel]
William Bouham [Bonham]
Edward Harrison
John Wolstenholme
Nicholas Salter
Hugh Evans
William Barners [Barnes]
Otho Mawdett [Mawdet]
Richard Staper, marchant
John Elkin, marchant
William Cayse [Coyse]
Thomas Perkin, cooper
Humphrey Ramell, cooper [Humphrey James]
Henry Jackson
Roberte Shingleton [Singleton]
Christopher Nicholls
John Harper
Abraham Chamberlaine [Chamberlayne]
Thomas Shipton
Thomas Carpenter
Anthoine Crewe [Crew]
George Holman
Robert Hill
Cleophas Smithe [Smith]
Raphe Harrison
John Farmer
James Brearley
William Crosley [Crosby]
Richard Cocks [Cox]
John Gearinge [Gearing]
Richard Strough, iremonnger [Strongarm]
Thomas Langton
Griffith Hinton
Richard Ironside
Richard Deane [Dean]
Richard Turner
William Leveson, mercer [Lawson]
James Chatfeilde [Chatfield]
Edward Allen [Edward Allen Tedder]
Tedder Roberts
Heldebrand Sprinson [Robert Hildebrand Sprinson]
Arthur Mouse
John Gardener [Gardiner]
James Russell [Russel]

Richard Casewell [Caswell]
Richard Evanns [Evans]
John Hawkins
Richard Kerrill [Kerril]
Richard Brooke
Mathewe Scrivener, gentleman [Screvener]
William Stallendge, gentleman [Stallenge]
Arthure Venn, gentleman
Saund Webb, gentleman [Sandys Webbe]
Michaell Phettiplace, gentleman
William Phettiplace, gentleman [Phettiplace]
Ambrose Brusey, gentleman [Prusey]
John Taverner, gentleman
George Pretty, gentleman
Peter Latham, gentleman
Thomas Monnford, gentleman [Montford]
William Cautrell, gentleman [Cantrel]
Richard Wiffine, gentleman [Wilfin]
Raphe Mooreton, gentleman [Moreton]
John Cornellis [Comelius]
Martyn Freeman
Raphe Freeman
Andreau Moore
Thomas White
Edward Perkin
Robert Osey
Thomas Whitley
George Pitt [Pit]
Roberte Parkehurste [Parkhurst]
Thomas Morris
Peter Vaulore [Harloe]
Jeffrey Duppa
John Gilbert
William Hancock
Mathew Bromrigg [Brown]
Francis Tirrell [Tyrrel]
Randall Carter
Othowell Smithe [Smith]
Thomas Honnyman [Hamond]
Marten Bonde, haberdasher [Bond]
Joan Mousloe [John Moulsoe]
Roberte Johnson
William Younge [Young]
John Woddall [Woodal]
William Felgate
Humfrey Westwood

Richard Champion
Henrie Robinson
Franncis Mapes
William Sambatch [Sambach]
Rauley Crashawe [Raleigh Crashaw]
DaruelLiacker
Thomas Grave
Hugh Willestone
Thomas Culpepper, of Wigsell, Esquire
John Culpepper, gentleman
Henrie Lee
Josias Kirton, gentleman [Kerton]
John Porie, gentleman [Pory]
Henrie Collins
George Burton
William Atkinson
Thomas Forrest [Forest]
John Russell [Russel]
John Houlte [Holt]
Harman Harrison
Gabiell Beedell [Beedel]
John Beedell [Beedel]
Henrie Dankes [Dawkes]
George Scott [Scot]
Edward Fleetewood, gentleman [Fleetwood]
Richard Rogers, gentleman
Arthure Robinson
Robert Robinson
John Huntley
John Grey [Gray]
William Payne
William Feilde [Field]
William Wattey
William Webster
John Dingley
Thomas Draper
Richard Glanvile [Glanvil]
Arnolde Lulls [Hulls]
Henrie Rowe [Roe]
William Moore [More]
Nicholas Grice [Gryce]
James Monnger [Monger]
Nicholas Andrewes [Andrews]
Jerome Haydon, iremonnger [Jeremy Haydon]
Phillipp Durrant [Philip Durette]
John Qualess [Quarles]

John West
Madlew Springeham [Springham]
John Johnson
Christopher Hore
George Barkeley
Thomas Sued [Snead]
George Barkeley [Berkeley]
Ardhure Pett [Pet]
Thomas Careles
William Barkley [Berkley]
Thomas Johnson
Alexander Bent [Bents]
Captaine William Kinge [King]
George Sandes, gentleman [Sandys]
James White, gentleman
Edmond Wynn [Wynne]
Charles Towler
Richard Reynold
Edward Webb
Richard Maplesden
Thomas Levers [Lever]
David Bourne
Thomas Wood
Raphe Hamer
Edward Barnes, mercer
John Wright, mercer
Robert Middleton
Edward Litsfeild [Littlefield]
Katherine West
Thomas Webb [Web]
Raphe Kinge [King]
Roberte Coppine [Coppin]
James Askewe
Christopher Nicholls [Christopher Holt]
William Bardwell
Alexander Childe [Chiles]
Lewes Tate
Edward Ditchfeilde [Ditchfield]
James Swifte
Richard Widdowes, goldsmith
Edmonde Brundells [Brudenell]
John Hanford [Hansford]
Edward Wooller
William Palmer, haberdasher
John Badger
John Hodgson

Peter Monnsill [Mounsel]
Jahn Carrill [Carril]
John Busbridge [Bushridge]
William Dunn [Dun]
Thomas Johnson
Nicholas Benson
Thomas Shipton
Nathaniell Wade
Randoll Wettwood [Wetwood]
Mathew Dequester
Charles Hawkins
Hugh Hamersley
Abraham Cartwright
George Bennett [Bennet]
William Cattor [Cater]
Richard Goddart
Henrie Cromwell
Phinees Pett [Pet]
Roberte Cooper
Henrie Neite [Newce]
Edward Wilks [Wilkes]
Roberte Bateman
Nicholas Farrar
John Newhouse
John Cason
Thomas Harris, gentleman
George Etheridge, gentleman
Thomas Mayle, gentleman
Richard Stratford [Stafford]
Thomas
Richard Cooper
John Westrowe [Westrow]
Edward Welshe [Welch]
Thomas Brittanie [Britain]
Thomas Knowls [Knowles]
Octavian Thome
Edmonde Smyth [Smith]
John March
Edward Carew
Thomas Pleydall
Richard Lea [Let]
Miles Palmer
Henrie Price
John Josua, gentleman [Joshua]
William Clawday [Clauday]
Jerome Pearsye

John Bree, gentleman
William Hampson
Christopher Pickford
Thomas Hunt
Thomas Truston
Christopher Lanman [Salmon]
John Haward, clerke [Howard]
Richarde Partridge
Allen Cotton [Cassen]
Felix Wilson
Thomas Colethurst [Bathurst]
George Wilmer
Andrew Wilmer
Morrice Lewellin
Thomas Jedwin [Godwin]
Peter Burgoyne
Thomas Burgoyne
Roberte Burgoyne
Roberte Smithe, merchauntaylor [Smith]
Edward Cage, grocer
Thomas Canon, gentleman [Cannon]
William Welby, stacioner
Clement Wilmer, gentleman
John Clapham, gentleman
Giles Fraunces, gentleman [Francis]
George Walker, sadler
John Swinehowe, stacioner [Swinhow]
Edward Bushoppe, stacioner [Bishop]
Leonard White, gentleman
Christopher Barron [Baron]
Peter Benson
Richard Smyth [Smith]
George Prockter, minister [Proctor]
Millicent Ramesden, widowe [Ramsdent]
Joseph Soane
Thomas Hinshawe [Hinshaw]
John Baker
Robert Thorneton [Thomton]
John Davies [Davis]
Edward Facett [Facetl]
George Nuce, gentleman [Newce]
John Robinson
Captaine Thomas Wood
William Browne, shoemaker [Brown]
Roberte Barker, shoemaker
Roberte Penington [Pennington]

Francis Burley, minister
William Quick, grocer
Edward Lewes, grocer [Lewis]
Laurence Campe, draper
Aden Perkins, grocer
Richard Shepparde, preacher [Shepherd]
William Sheckley, haberdasher [Sherley]
William Tayler, haberdasher [Taylor]
Edward Lukyn, gentleman [Edwin Lukin]
John Francklyn, haberdasher [Franklyn]
John Southicke [Southwick]
Peter Peate
George Johan, iremonnger
George Yardley, gentleman [Yeadley]
Henrie Shelly [Shelley]
John Pratt [Prat]
Thomas Church, draper
William Powell, gentleman [Powel]
Richard Frithe, gentleman [Frith]
Thomas Wheeler, draper
Francis Hasilerigg, gentleman [Haselrig]
Hughe Shippley, gentleman [Shipley]
John Andrewes, thelder, [doctor], of Cambridge [Andrews]
Francis Whistley, gentleman [Whistler]
John Vassall, gentleman
Richard Howle
Edward Barkeley, gentleman [Berkeley]
Richard Knerisborough, gentleman [Keneridgburg]
Nicholas Exton, draper
William Bennett, fishmonger [Bennet]
James Hawood, marchaunt [Haywood]
Nicholas Isaak, merchaunt [Isaac]
William Gibbs, merchannt
[William] Bushopp [Bishop]
Barnard Michell [Mitchel]
Isaake Michell [Isaac Mitchel]
John Streat [Streate]
Edward Gall
John Marten, gentleman [Martin]
Thomas Fox
Luke Lodge
John Woodleefe, gentleman [Woodliffel]
Rice Webb [Piichard]
Vincent Lowe [Low]
Samuell Burnam [Burnham]
Edmonde Pears, haberdasher

Josua Goudge [John Googe]
John St. John
Edward Vaughan
William Dunn
Thomas Alcock [Alcocke]
John Andrewes, the younger, of Cambridge [Andrews]
Samuell Smithe [Smith]
Thomas Jerrard [Gerrard]
Thomas Whittingham
William Cannynge [Canning]
Paule Caminge [Canning]
George Chaudler [Chandler]
Henry Vincent
Thomas Ketley
James Skelton
James Montain [Mountaine]
George Webb, gentleman
Joseph Newbroughesmith [Joseph Newbridge, smith]
Josias Mande [Mand]
Raphe Haman, the younger [Hamer]
Edward Brewster, the sonne of William Brewster
Leonard Harwood, mercer
Phillipp Druerdent
William Carpenter
Tristram Hill
Roberte Cock, grocer
Laurence Grene, grocer [Greene]
Daniell Winche, grocer [Samuel Winch]
Humfrey Stile, grocer
Averie Dransfeild, grocer [Dransfield]
Edward Hodges, grocer
Edward Beale, grocer
Raphe Busby, grocer
John Whittingham, grocer
John Hide, grocer
Mathew Shipperd, grocer [Shepherd]
Thomas Allen, grocer
Richard Hooker, grocer
Laurence Munckas, grocer [Munks]
John Tanner, grocer
Peter Gate, grocer
John Blunt, grocer
Roberte Berrisford, grocer
Thomas Wells, gentleman
John Ellis, grocer
Henrie Colthurst, grocer

John Cranage, grocer [Cavady]
Thomas Jenings, grocer [Jennings]
Edmond Peshall, grocer [Pashall]
Timothie Bathurst, grocer
Gyles Parslowe, grocer [Parslow]
Roberte Johnson, grocer [Richard]
William Janson, vintener [Johnson]
Ezechiell Smith
Richard Murrettone [Martin]
William Sharpe
Roberte Ritche [Rich]
William Stannerd, inholder [Stannard]
John Stocken
William Strachey, gentleman
George Farmer, gentleman
Thomas Gypes, clothworker
Abraham Dawes, gentleman [Davies]
Thomas Brockett, gentleman [Brocket]
George Bathe, fishmonger [Bache]
John Dike, fishmonger
Henrie Spranger
Richard Farringdon [Farrington]
Chistopher Vertue, vintener
Thomas Baley, vintener [Bayley]
George Robins, vintener
Tobias Hinson, grocer
Urian Spencer [Vrian]
Clement Chachelley [Chicheley]
John Searpe, gentleman [Scarpe]
James Cambell, iremonnger [Campbell]
Christopher Clitherowe, iremonnger [Clitheroe]
Phillipp Jacobson
Peter Jacobson, of Andwarpe
William Barckley [Berkeley]
Miles Banck, cutler [Banks]
Peter Highley, grocer [Higgons]
Henrie John, gentleman
John Stoakley, merchauntailor [Stokeley]
The companie of mercers
The companie of grocers
The companie of drapers
The company of fishmongers
The companie of gouldsmithes
The companie of skynners
The companie merchauntailors
The companie of haberdashers

The companie of salters
The companie of iremongers
The companie of vintners
The companie of clothworkers
The companie of dyers
The companie of bruers
The companie of lethersellers
The companie of pewterers
The companie of cutlers
The companie of whitebakers
The companie of waxchaundlers
The companie of tallowe chaundlers
The companie of armorers
The companie of girdlers
The companie of butchers
The companie of sadlers
The companie of carpenters
The companie of cordwayners
The companie of barbor chirurgions
The companie of painter stayners
The companie of curriers
The companie of masons
The companie of plumbers
The companie of inholders
The companie of founders
The companie of poulterers
The companie of cookes
The companie of coopers
The companie of tylers and bncklayers
The companie of bowyers
The companie of Retchers
The companie of blacksmithes
The companie of joyners
The companie of weavers
The companie of wollmen
The companie of wood monnvers
The companie of scrivenors
The companie of fruterers
The companie of plasterers
The companie of brownebakers
The companie of stacioners
The companie of imbroderers
The companie of upholsters
The companie of musicions
The companie of turners
The companie of basketmakers

The companie of glasiers
John Levett, merchaunt [Levet]
Thomas Nomicott, clothworker [Nomicot]
Richard Venn, haberdasher
Thomas Scott, gentleman [Scot]
Thomas Juxson, merchauntaylor [Juxon]
George Hankinson
Thomas Leeyer, gentleman [Seyer]
Mathew Cooper
Gorge Butler, gentleman
Thomas Lawson, gentleman
Edward Smith, haberdasher
Stephen Sparrowe
John Jones, merchaunt
[John] Reynold, brewer [Reynolds]
Thomas Plummer, merchaunt
James Duppa, bruer
Rowland Coytemore [Coitmore]
William Sotherne [Southerne]
Gorge Whittmoore, haberdasher [Whitmore]
Anthonie Gosoulde, the younger [Gosnold]
John Allen, fishemonger
John Kettlebye, gentleman [Kettleby]
Symonde Yeomans, fishmonger [Simon]
Richard Chene, gouldsmithe
Launcelot Davis, gentleman [Clene]
John Hopkins, an alderman of Bristoll
George Hooker, gentlernan
Roberte Shevinge, yeoman [Chening]

And to such and so many as they do or shall hereafter admit to be joined with them, in form hereafter in these presents expressed, whether they go in their persons to be planters there in the said plantation, or whether they go not, but do adventure their moneys, goods or chattels, that they shall be one body or community perpetual and shall have perpetual succession and one common seal to serve for the said body or community; and that they and their successors shall be known, called and incorporated by the name of The Treasurer and Company of Adventurers and Planters of the City of London for the First Colony in Virginia.

And that they and their successors shall be from henceforth, forever enabled to take, acquire and purchase, by the name aforesaid (license for the same from us, our heirs or successors first had and obtained) any manner of lands, tenements and hereditaments, goods and chattels, within our realm of England and dominion of Wales; and that they and their successors shall be likewise enabled, by the name aforesaid, to plead and to be impleaded before any of our judges or justices, in any our courts, and in any actions or suits whatsoever.

And we do also, of our said special grace, certain knowledge and mere motion, give, grant and confirm unto the said Treasurer and Company, and their successors, under the reservations, limitations and declarations hereafter expressed, all those lands, countries and territories situated, lying, and being in that place of America called Virginia, from the point of land called Cape or Point Comfort all along the sea coast to the northward two hundred miles and from the said point of Cape Comfort all along the sea coast to the southward two hundred miles; and all that space and circuit of land lying from the sea coast of the precinct aforesaid up unto the land, throughout, from sea to sea, west and northwest; and also all the island being within one hundred miles along the coast of both seas of the precinct aforesaid; together with all the soils, grounds, havens and ports, mines, as well royal mines of gold and silver as other minerals, pearls and precious stones, quarries, woods, rivers, waters, fishing, commodities, jurisdictions, royalties, privileges, franchises and preeminences within the said territory and the precincts there of whatsoever; and thereto or there about, both by sea and land, being or in any sort belonging or appertaining, and which we by our letters patents may or can grant; and in as ample manner and sort as we or any of our noble progenitors have heretofore granted to any company, body politic or corporate, or to any adventurer or adventurers, undertaker or undertakers, of any discoveries, plantations or traffic of, in, or into any foreign parts whatsoever; and in as large and ample manner as if the same were herein particularly mentioned and expressed: to have, hold, possess and enjoy all and singular the said lands, countries and territories with all and singular other the premises heretofore by these [presents] granted or mentioned to be granted, to them, the said Treasurer and Company, their successors and assigns, forever; to the sole and proper use of them, the said Treasurer and Company, their successors and assigns [forever], to beholden of us, our heirs and successors, as of our manner of Estgreenewich, in free and common socage and not in capite; yielding and paying, therefore, to us, our heirs and successors, the fifth part only of all our of gold and silver that from time to time, and at all times hereafter, shall be there gotten, had and obtained, for all manner of service.

And, nevertheless, our will and pleasure is, and we do by these presents charge, command, warrant and authorize, that the said Treasurer and Company and their successors, or the major part of them which shall be present and assembled for that purpose, shall from time to time under their common seal distribute, convey, assign and set over such particular portions of lands, tenements and hereditaments, by these presents formerly granted, unto such our loving subjects naturally borne of denizens, or others, as well adventurers as planters, as by the said Company, upon a commission of survey and distribution executed and returned for that purpose, shall be named, appointed and allowed, wherein our will and pleasure is, that respect be had as well of the proportion of the adventure[r] as to the special service, hazard, exploit or merit of any person so as to be recompenced, advanced or rewarded.

And for as much as the good and prosperous success of the said plantation cannot but chiefly depend, next under the blessing of God and the support of our royal authority, upon the provident and good direction of the whole enterprise by a careful and understanding Counsel, and that it is not convenient that all the adventurers shall be so often drawn to meet and assemble as shall be requisite for them to have meetings and

conference about their affairs, therefore we do ordain, establish and confirm that there shall be perpetually one Counsel here resident, according to the tenor of our former letters patents, which Counsel shall have a seal for the better government and administration of the said plantation besides the legal seal of the Company or Corporation, as in our former letters patents is also expressed.

And further wee establish and ordain that

Henrie, Earl of Southampton
William, Earl of Pembroke
Henrie, Earl of Lincoln
Thomas, Earl of Exeter
Roberte, Lord Viscounte Lisle
Lord Theophilus Howard
James, Lord Bishopp of Bathe and Wells
Edward, Lord Zouche
Thomas, Lord Laware
William, Lord Mounteagle
Edmunde, Lord Sheffeilde
Grey, Lord Shanndoys [Chandois]
John, Lord Stanhope
George, Lord Carew
Sir Humfrey Welde, Lord Mayor of London
Sir Edward Cecil
Sir William Waad [Wade]
Sir Henrie Nevill
Sir Thomas Smith
Sir Oliver Cromwell
Sir Peter Manwood
Sir Thomas Challoner
Sir Henrie Hovarte [Hobart]
Sir Franncis Bacon
Sir George Coppin
Sir John Scott
Sir Henrie Carey
Sir Roberte Drurie [Drury]
Sir Horatio Vere
Sir Eward Conwayne [Conway]
Sir Maurice Berkeley [Barkeley]
Sir Thomas Gates
Sir Michael Sands [Sandys]
Sir Roberte Mansfeild [Mansel]
Sir John Trevor
Sir Amyas Preston
Sir William Godolphin
Sir Walter Cope

Sir Robert Killigrew
Sir Henrie Faushawe [Fanshaw]
Sir Edwyn Sandes [Sandys]
Sir John Watts
Sir Henrie Montague
Sir William Romney
Sir Thomas Roe
Sir Baptiste Hicks
Sir Richard Williamson
Sir Stephen Powle [Poole]
Sir Dudley Diggs
Christopher Brooke, [Esq.]
John Eldred, and
John Wolstenholme

Shall be our Counsel for the said Company of Adventurers and Planters in Virginia.

And the said Sir Thomas Smith we ordain to be Treasurer of the said Company, which Treasurer shall have authority to give order for the warning of the Counsel and summoning the Company to their courts and meetings.

And the said Counsel and Treasurer or any of them shall be from henceforth nominated, chosen, continued, displaced, changed, altered and supplied, as death or other several occasions shall require, out of the Company of the said adventurers by the voice of the greater part of the said Counsel and adventurers in their assembly for that purpose; provided always that every Counsellor so newly elected shall be presented to the Lord Chancellor of England, or to the Lord High Treasurer of England, or the Lord Chambleyne of the household of us, our heirs and successors, for the time being to take his oath of a Counsellor to us, our heirs and successors, for the said Company and Colony in Virginia.

And we do by these presents, of our special grace, certain knowledge and meer motion, for us, our heirs and successors, grant unto the said Treasurer and Company and their successors, that if it happen at any time or times the Treasurer for the time being to be sick, or to have any such cause of absente from the city of London as shall be allowed by the said Counsel or the greater part of them assembled, so as he cannot attend the affairs of that Company, in every such case it shall and may be lawful for such Treasurer for the time being to assign, constitute and appoint one of the Counsel for Company to be likewise allowed by the Counsel or the greater parte of them assembled to be the deputy Treasurer for the said Company; which Deputy shall have power to do and execute all things which belong to the said Treasurer during such time as such Treasurer shall be sick or otherwise absent, upon cause allowed of by the said Counsel or the major part of them as aforesaid, so fully and wholly and in as large and ample manner and form and to all intents and purposes as the said Treasurer if he were present himself may or might do and execute the same.

And further of our special grace, certain knowledge and meer motion, for us, our heirs and successors, we do by these presents give and grant full power and authority to our said Counsel here resident as well at this present time as hereafter, from time to time, to nominate, make, constitute, ordain and confirm by such name or names, style or styles as to them shall seem good, and likewise to revoke, discharge, change and alter as well all and singular governors, officers and ministers which already hath been made, as also which hereafter shall be by them thought fit and needful to be made or used for the government of the said Colony and plantation.

And also to make, ordain and establish all manner of orders, laws, directions, instructions, forms and ceremonies of government and magistracy, fit and necessary, for and concerning the government of the said Colony and plantation; and the same at all times hereafter to abrogate, revoke or change, not only within the precincts of the said Colony but also upon the seas in going and coming to and from the said Colony, as they in their good discretions shall think to be fittest for [the] good of the adventurers and inhabitants there.

And we do also declare that for divers reasons and considerations us thereunto especially moving, our will and pleasure is and we do hereby ordain that immediately from and after such time as any such governor or principal officer so to be nominated and appointed by our said Counsel for the government of the said Colony, as aforesaid, shall arrive in Virginia and give notice unto the Colony there resident of our pleasure in this behalf, the government, power and authority of the President and Counsel, heretofore by our former letters patents there established, and all laws and constitutions by them formerly made, shall utterly cease and be determined; and all officers, governors and ministers formerly constituted or appointed shall be discharged, any thing in our said former letters patents concerning the said plantation contained in any wise to the contrary notwithstanding; straightly charging and commanding the President and Counsel now resident in the said Colony upon their allegiance after knowledge given unto them of our will and pleasure by these presents signified and declared, that they forthwith be obedient to such governor or governors as by our said Counsel here resident shall be named and appointed as aforesaid; and to all directions, orders and commandments which they shall receive from them, as well in the present resigning and giving up of their authority, offices, charge and places, as in all other attendance as shall be by them from time to time required.

And we do further by these presents ordain and establish that the said Treasurer and Counsel here resident, and their successors or any follower of them assembled (the Treasurer being one), shall from time to time have full power and authority to admit and receive any other person into their company, corporation and freedom; and further, in a general assembly of the adventurers, with the consent of the greater part upon good cause, to disfranchise and put out any person or persons out of the said freedom and Company.

And we do also grant and confirm for us, our heirs and successors that it shall be lawful for the said Treasurer and Company and their successors, by direction of the Governors there, to dig and to search for all manner of mines of gold, silver, copper, iron, lead, tin

and other minerals as well within the precincts aforesaid as within any part of the mine land not formerly granted to any other; and to have and enjoy the gold, silver, copper, iron, lead, and tin, and all other minerals to be gotten thereby, to the use and behalf of the said Company of Planters and Adventurers, yielding therefore and paying yearly unto us, our heirs and successors, as aforesaid.

And we do further of our special grace, certain knowledge and meer motion, for us, our heirs and successors, grant, by these presents to and with the said Treasurer and Company and their successors, that it shall be lawful and free for them and their assigns at all and every time and times here after, out of our realm of England and out of all other [our] dominions, to take and lead into the said voyage, and for and towards the said plantation, and to travel thitherwards and to abide and inhabit therein the said Colony and plantation, all such and so many of our loving subjects, or any other strangers that will become our loving subjects and live under our allegiance, as shall willingly accompany them in the said voyage and plantation with sufficient shipping armor, weapons, ordinance, munition, powder, shot, victuals, and such merchandise or wares as are esteemed by the wild people in those parts, clothing, implements, furniture, cattle, horses and mares, and all other things necessary for the said plantation and for their use and defense and trade with the people there, and in passing and returning to and from without yielding or paying subsidy, custom, imposition, or any other tax or duties to us, our heirs or successors, for the space of seven years from the date of these presents; provided, that none of the said persons be such as shall be hereafter by special name restrained by us, our heirs or successors.

And for their further encouragement, of our special grace and favor, we do by these presents for us, our heirs and successors, yield and grant to and with the said Treasurer and Company and their successors and everyone of them, their factors and assigns, that they and every one of them shall be free and quiet of all subsidies and customs in Virginia for the space of one and twenty years, and from all taxes and impositions for ever, upon any goods or merchandises at any time or times hereafter, either upon importation thither or exportation from thence into our realm of England or into any other of our [realms or] dominions, by the said Treasurer and Company and their successors, their deputies, factors [or] assigns or any of them, except only the five pound per centum due for custom upon all such good and merchandises as shall be brought or imported into our realm of England or any other of these our dominions according to the ancient trade of merchants, which five pounds per centum only being paid, it shall be henceforth lawful and free for the said Adventurers the same goods [and] merchandises to export and carry out of our said dominions into foreign parts without any custom, tax or other duty to be paid to us, our heirs or successors or to any other our officers or deputies; provided, that the said goods and merchandise be shipped out within thirteen months after their first landing within any part of those dominions.

And we do also confirm and grant to the said Treasurer and Company, and their successors, as also to all and every such governor or other officers and ministers as by our said Counsel shall be appointed, to have power and authority of government and command in or over the said Colony or plantation; that they and every one of them shall

and lawfully may from time to time and at all times forever hereafter, for their several defense and safety, encounter, expulse, repel and resist by force and armies, as well by sea as by land, and all ways and means whatsoever, all and every such person and persons whatsoever as without the special license of the said Treasurer and Company and their successors shall attempt to inhabit within the said several precincts and limits of the said Colony and plantation; and also, all and every such person and persons whatsoever as shall enterprise, or attempt at any time hereafter, destruction, invasion, hurt, detriment or annoyance to the said Colony and plantation, as is likewise specified in the said former grant.

And that it shall be lawful for the said Treasurer and Company, and their successors and every of them, from time to time and at all times hereafter, and they shall have full power and authority, to take and surprise by all ways and means whatsoever all and every person and persons whatsoever, with their ships, goods and other furniture, trafficking in any harbor, creek or place within the limits or precincts of the said Colony and plantation, [not] being allowed by the said Company to be adventurers or planters of the said Colony, until such time as they being of any realms or dominions under our obedience shall pay or agree to pay, to the hands of the Treasurer or [of] some other officer deputed by the said governors in Virginia (over and above such subsidy and custom as the said Company is or here after shall be to pay) five pounds per centum upon all goods and merchandise so brought in thither, and also five per centum upon all goods by them shipped out from thence; and being strangers and not under our obedience until they have paid (over and above such subsidy and custom as the same Treasurer and Company and their successors is or hereafter shall be to pay) ten pounds per centum upon all such goods, likewise carried in and out, anything in the former letters patents to the contrary notwithstanding; and the same sums of money and benefit as aforesaid for and during the space of one and twenty years shall be wholly employed to the benefit and behalf of the said Colony and plantation; and after the said one and twenty years ended, the same shall be taken to the use of us, our heirs or successors, by such officer and minister as by us, our heirs or successors, shall be thereunto assigned and appointed, as is specified in the said former letters patents.

Also we do, for us, our heirs and successors, declare by these presents, that all and every person being our subjects which shall go and inhabit within the said Colony and plantation, and every of their children and posterity which shall happen to be borne within [any] the limits thereof, shall have [and] enjoy all liberties, franchises and immunities of free denizens and natural subjects within any of our other dominions to all intents and purposes as if they had been abiding and born within this our kingdom of England or in any other of our dominions.

And forasmuch as it shall be necessary for all such our loving subjects as shall inhabit within the said precincts of Virginia aforesaid to determine to live together in the fear and true worship of Almighty God, Christian peace and civil quietness, each with other, whereby every one may with more safety, pleasure and profit enjoy that where unto they shall attain with great pain and peril, we, for us, our heirs and successors, are likewise pleased and contented and by these presents do give and grant unto the said Treasurer and

Company and their successors and to such governors, officers and ministers as shall be, by our said Council, constituted and appointed, according to the natures and limits of their offices and places respectively, that they shall and may from time to time for ever hereafter, within the said precincts of Virginia or in the way by the seas thither and from thence, have full and absolute power and authority to correct, punish, pardon, govern and rule all such the subjects of us, our heirs and successors as shall from time to time adventure themselves in any voyage thither or that shall at any time hereafter inhabit in the precincts and territory of the said Colony as aforesaid, according to such order, ordinances, constitution, directions and instructions as by our said Counsel, as aforesaid, shall be established; and in defect thereof, in case of necessity according to the good discretions of the said governors and officers respectively, as well in cases capital and criminal as civil, both marine and other, so always as the said statutes, ordinances and proceedings as near as conveniently may be, be agreeable to the laws, statutes, government and policy of this our realm of England.

And we do further of our special grace, certain knowledge and mere motion, grant, declare and ordain that such principal governor as from time to time shall duly and lawfully be authorized and appointed, in manner and form in these presents heretofore expressed, shall [have] full power and authority to use and exercise marshal law in cases of rebellion or mutiny in as large and ample manner as our lieutenant in our counties within our realme of England have or ought to have by force of their commissions of lieutenancy. And furthermore, if any person or persons, adventurers or planters, of the said Colony, or any other at any time or times hereafter, shall transport any monies, goods or merchandises out of any [of] our kingdoms with a pretence or purpose to land, sell or otherwise dispose the same within the limits and bounds of the said Colony, and yet nevertheless being at sea or after he hath landed within any part of the said Colony shall carry the same into any other foreign Country, with a purpose there to sell and dispose there of that, then all the goods and chattels of the said person or persons so offending and transported, together with the ship or vessel wherein such transportation was made, shall be forfeited to us, our heirs and successors.

And further, our will and pleasure is, that in all questions and doubts that shall arise upon any difficulty of construction or interpretation of any thing contained either in this or in our said former letters patents, the same shall be taken and interpreted in most ample and beneficial manner for the said Treasurer and Company and their successors and every member thereof.

And further, we do by these presents ratify and confirm unto the said Treasurer and Company and their successors all privileges, franchises, liberties and immunities granted in our said former letters patents and not in these our letters patents revoked, altered, changed or abridged.

And finally, our will and pleasure is and we do further hereby for us, our heirs and successors grant and agree, to and with the said Treasurer and Company and their successors, that all and singular person and persons which shall at any time or times hereafter adventure any sum or sums of money in and towards the said plantation of the

said Colony in Virginia and shall be admitted by the said Counsel and Company as adventurers of the said Colony, in form aforesaid, and shall be enrolled in the book or record of the adventurers of the said Company, shall and may be accepted, accepted, taken, held and reputed Adventurers of the said Colony and shall and may enjoy all and singular grants, privileges, liberties, benefits, profits, commodities [and immunities], advantages and emoluments whatsoever as fully, largely, amply and absolutely as if they and every of them had been precisely, plainly, singularly and distinctly named and inserted in these our letters patents.

And lastly, because the principal effect which we can desire or expect of this action is the conversion and reduction of the people in those parts unto the true worship of God and Christian religion, in which respect we would be loathe that any person should be permitted to pass that wee suspected to affect the superstitions of the Church of Rome, we do hereby declare that it is our will and pleasure that none be permitted to pass in any voyage from time to time to be made into the said country but such as first shall have taken the oath of supremacy, for which purpose we do by these presents give full power and authority to the Treasurer for the time being, and any three of the Counsel, to tender and exhibit the said oath to all such persons as shall at any time be sent and employed in the said voyage.

Although express mention [of the true yearly value or certainty of the premises, or any of them, or of any other gifts or grants, by us or any of our progenitors or predecessors, to the aforesaid Treasurer and Company heretofore made, in these presents is not made; or any act, statute, ordinance, provision, proclamation, or restraint, to the contrary hereof had, made, ordained, or provided, or any other thing, cause, or matter, whatsoever, in any wise notwithstanding.] In witness whereof [we have caused these our letters to be made patent. Witness our self at Westminster, the 23d day of May (1609) in the seventh year of our reign of England, France, and Ireland, and of Scotland the ****]

Per ipsum Regem exactum. 