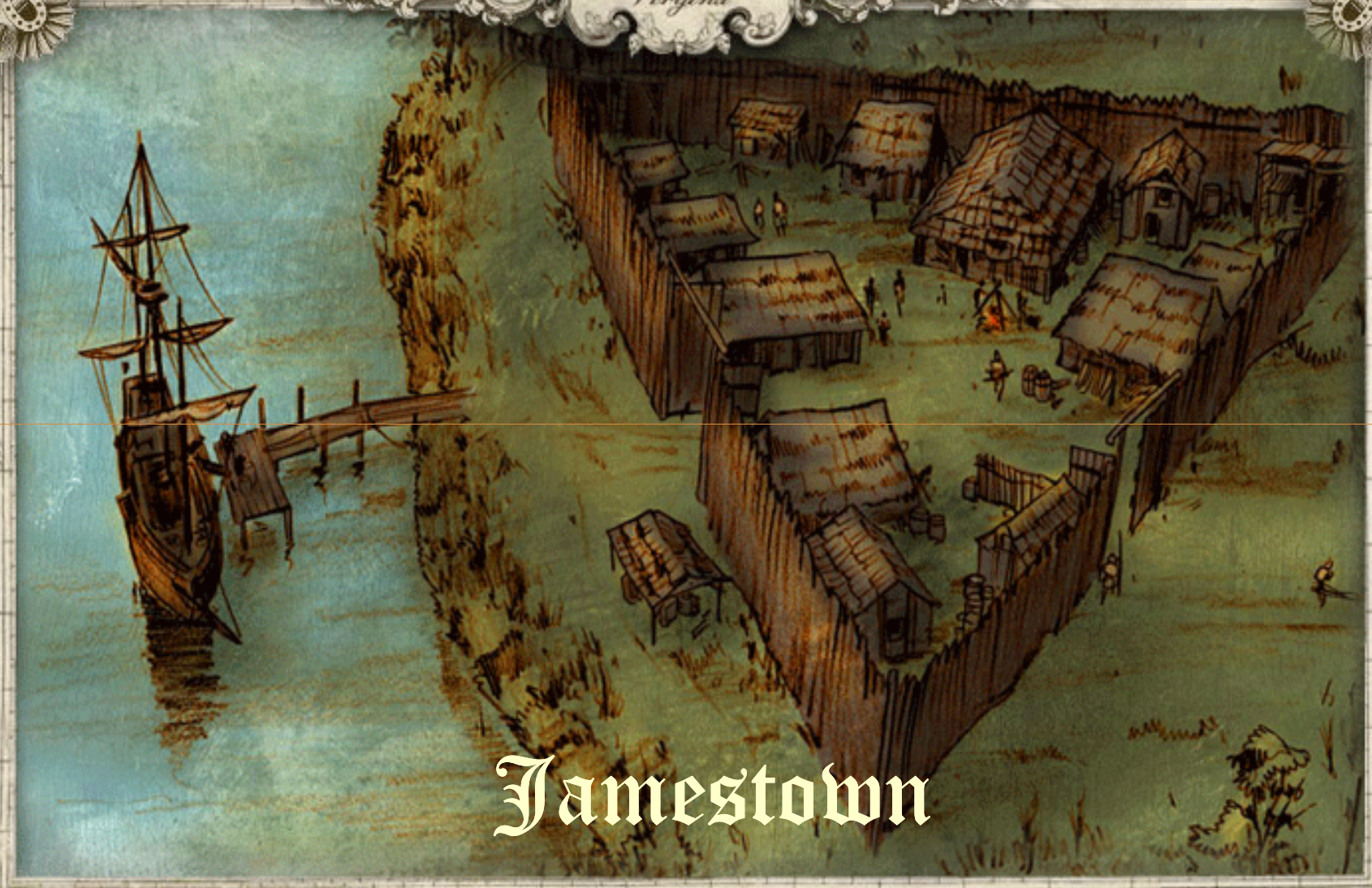


James Town  
Virginia



Jamestown



# Virginia Company of London

- Joint-Stock Company
  - Multiple investors in a single venture
- London Company given a charter from King James to start a colony in Virginia
- Settlers offered food, travel, & land ownership in exchange for seven years of labor for the colony
  - Looking for wealth, profit, gold
- 144 men set out for Virginia in December of 1606



# John Smith



- Mercenary who fought all over Europe
- Captured and sold into slavery in Russia
  - Killed his master, found his way back to Europe along silk road
- Signed on as a Jamestown colonist
- Jailed during journey for insubordination
  - Sentenced to hang
    - Was spared gallows when sealed orders were opened upon arrival that specified he was to be a leader of the colony

# The Landing – 1607



- On April 26<sup>th</sup>, 1607 105 Englishmen landed in Virginia
- Chose Jamestown as a settlement location
  - Easily defensible
  - Swampy ~ mosquitoes and lack of large game.
  - Surrounded by salt water
- 19 days later, they were attacked by local Indians
  - Repelled attack, but showed need for protection
- Constructed large triangular fort

# Jamestown Fort



# John Smith & Pocahontas



- John Smith sent to negotiate/trade with Natives
- Captured in Dec. 1607 by Powhatan Indians
  - According to Smith, his life was spared by Pocahontas, the chief's daughter (11 yrs old)
  - Stayed with Powhatans, learned to communicate
  - This stimulated productive trade b/w settlers and natives
    - Crucial to Jamestown's winter survival

# Smith takes control

- Despite improved relations with Indians, only 38 original colonists had survived by 1608
  - Many were bent on searching for gold, not planting crops
  - 70 more arrive in January
- Pocahontas visited Jamestown several times during this time
  - Brought food
- September, 1608 - John Smith elected President of Colony
  - Initiated military discipline
  - "He that will not work, will not eat"
  - Kept working relationship with natives
    - Some skirmishes with smaller tribes, but avoided all-out war with Chief Powhatan

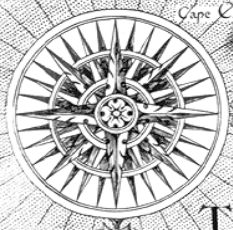


**POWHATAN**  
 Held this state & fashion when Capt. Smith  
 was delivered to him prisoner  
 1607

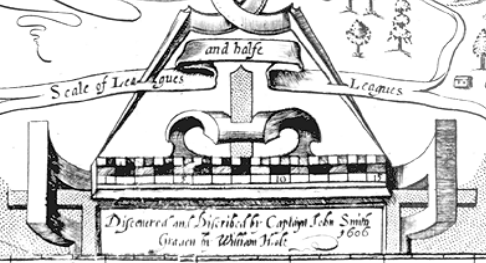
1692  
 Signification of these marks,  
 To the crosses hath bin discovered  
 what beyond is by relation  
 Kings houses 2  
 Ordinary houses 2



The Sassee  
 are a great like people  
 thus a



**THE VIRGINIAN SEA**



Discovered and Discribed by Captain John Smith  
 Governour of Virginia 1606





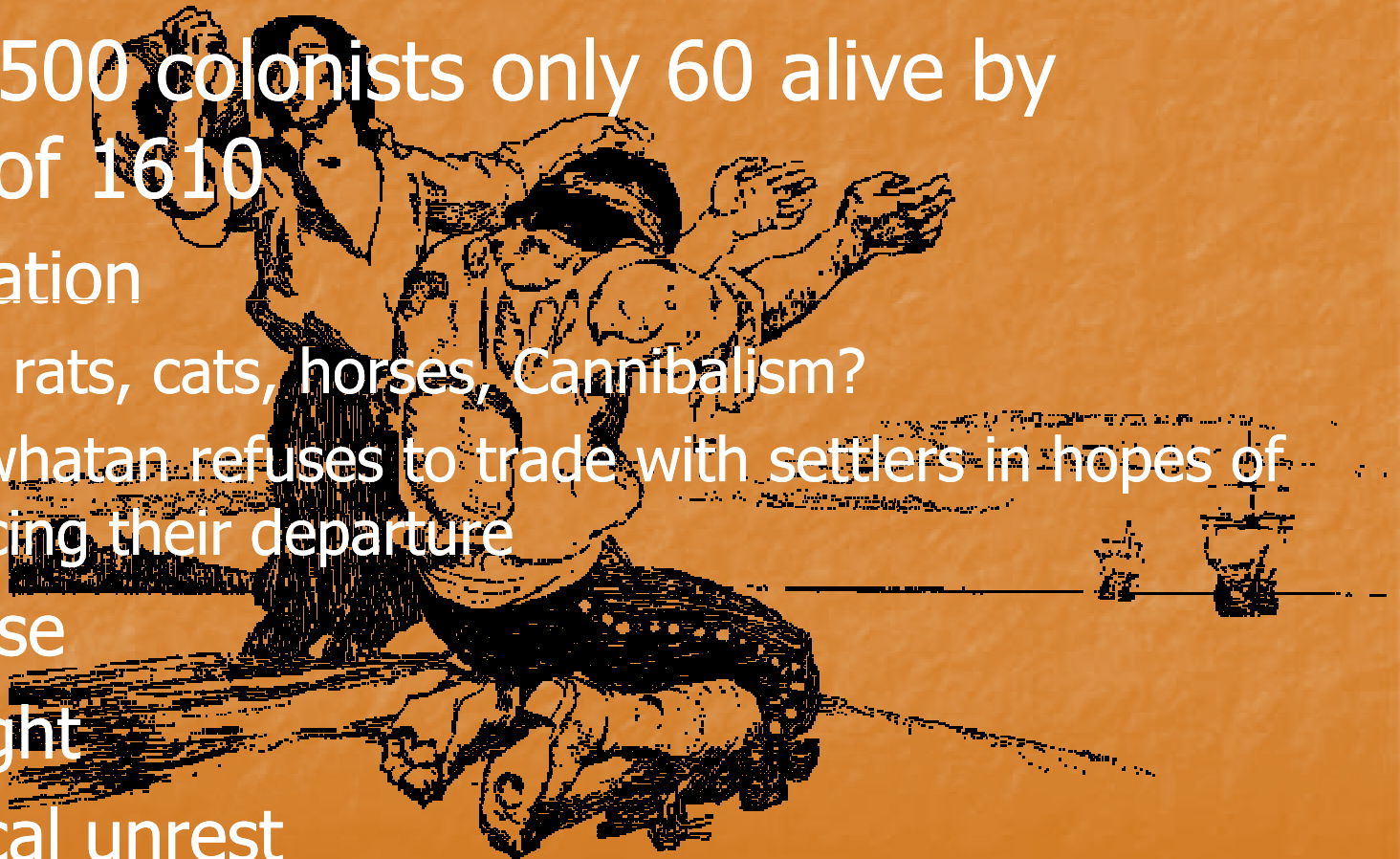
# The decline...

- Smith is wounded in freak accident when his gun powder exploded on his belt while exploring
  - Departs to London in Oct. 1609 for treatment.
- Colony is left in disarray without strong leadership
  - New President John Ratcliff is captured while trying to trade
    - Tortured to death by Powhatan women



# Starving Time 1609-1610

- Out of 500 colonists only 60 alive by spring of 1610
  - Starvation
    - Ate rats, cats, horses, Cannibalism?
    - Powhatan refuses to trade with settlers in hopes of forcing their departure
  - Disease
  - Drought
  - Political unrest



# Tobacco - America's savior

- John Rolfe arrives with new group of settlers in 1610
  - Rolfe introduces new strain of tobacco which is suited to European taste
  - Begins very successful export business by 1612



# Peace of Pocahontas

- English colonists trick Pocahontas into captivity in 1613
  - Hold her ransom for food, supplies
  - Finally let her go when Chief doesn't pay
  - She chooses to stay with English
    - Converts to Christianity
      - Given name "Rebecca"
    - Learns to read, write
  - Marries John Rolfe in 1614
    - Given large parcel of land by Powhatan
    - Have son, Thomas, in 1615
    - "Peace of Pocahontas" lasts until 1617
- Rolfe and Pocahontas travel to England in 1616
  - Pocahontas becomes a celebrity, meets Queen Anne
  - Reunited with John Smith, whom she thought was dead
  - Becomes ill shortly after her ship leaves for America
    - Returns to England and dies in 1617



# Success in Virginia

- With the success of tobacco in Virginia and the popularity of Pocahontas in England, came renewed interest in Jamestown
  - Exporting 50,000 pounds of tobacco per year to England



# The Firsts of 1619

- Hundreds of new settlers began arriving
  - First single women in the New World
  - First slaves brought to new world
- First representative government
  - House of Burgesses
    - 22 burgesses from 11 plantations
    - Only white, land-owning males could vote for burgesses
    - First order of business was to set minimum price for tobacco, discuss plans for first ironworks in colony



# Expansion leads to problems

- The colony had expanded outward since the success of tobacco
  - Looking for more acreage to grow
  - Provide land for new settlers
  - Began to worsen relations with natives as more and more native lands are overrun
- Native attack in 1622 wipes out 400 men, women, children
- 1623 - Jamestown Captains Tucker and Potts call for a meeting with Powhatan
  - Agree to truce
  - Propose a toast of liquor laced with poison
    - 200 poisoned, 50 slaughtered



# Charter revoked



- Due to fighting with natives, King James revokes London company's charter in 1624
  - Becomes royal colony, ruled by king
- By 1634, Virginia grows to over 5,000 settlers
  - England creates 8 counties



# Bacon's Rebellion



- Colonial unrest due to
  - Refusal to call elections
  - Taxes
  - Lack of farmland
- Disgruntled colonist Nathaniel Bacon begins to attack natives and take land
  - Royal Governor of Virginia attempts to stop
- Bacon starts rebellion and burns Jamestown in 1676
  - Takes control of most of colony
- When Bacon dies of illness, the rebellion crumbles