

Honor Code Violation Report Form - Revised 8/2016

Student: Alex Student

ID: _____

Course #: HS 375104 Title: Peoples of Early America

Year/Semester: Fall 2020

Instructor: Dr. Ignatius

Date of Incident: 9/14/2020

Violation(s) to be considered (check all that apply):

cheating

plagiarism

stealing

lying

forgery

failure to report a violation

Description of Incident (Please attach appropriate documentation of the violation): _____

See attached paper and selections from Ohio State Honor Thesis that was copied.

The student checks one of the following after meeting with the instructor to discuss the alleged violation:

- I. I accept responsibility for the honor code violation described above, and I accept the following sanction(s) imposed by the instructor:

Fail the paper.

In addition to the academic sanction imposed by the instructor the student will be required to attend a sanction hearing. At a sanction hearing the Honor Council engages the student in a discussion of the violation and decides whether additional sanctions of an educational nature are indicated.

- II. I do not accept responsibility for the violation and request a hearing with the Honor Council to review this case. (A member of the Council will contact the student.)

Signatures:

+ +

Course instructors are asked to inform their department chair when filing a report.

Please check here to signify that you have informed your chair:

Send completed form to Dr. Elissa Derrickson, Dean of Undergraduate and Graduate Studies, MH 145. All parties to the incident may contact Honor Council Moderator, Mr. Mark Lee (x-2353) with any questions about the process. Instructors are required to submit this form for all violations of the academic Honor Code. Hearings are scheduled at the earliest possible date following receipt of this form. Students for whom a violation has been reported will be notified of the date, time, and location of the hearing. They are advised to review the process for Honor Council hearings in the Community Standards Handbook.

Set out issues to be discussed more clearly

A Struggle to Survive

In 1608 when a near fatal accident sent Captain John Smith back to England to recover,

doesn't fall completely

the colonists faced a disastrous period ahead of them. Just two years after founding the once promising prosperous colony of Jamestown, Virginia, has become what is known as the

had it been possible early on.

1607-10

“starving time.” The most well known argument for the downfall of the Jamestown colony was the major food shortage that they endured, leading to the deaths of hundreds of settlers. Arriving at the English settlement, the initial colonists were not equipped for the manual labor they would have to undergo nor were they informed of just how important preparation and agriculture would be. Depending greatly on trade with the Native Americans, it wasn’t long before serious conflicts developed between them.

Heading to the New World and building residence along the James River (named after King James I) appeared to be the American dream. During this time England was experiencing a bit of an economic crisis and therefore heading to Jamestown in search of monetary gain and business boost to relieve its inflating population. The English went with intentions of converting the New World natives to Christianity, to locate gold and a route to the riches of the Orient, and to export raw and manufactured goods.¹ Edward Maria Wingfield was amongst the first to arrive in 1607 and was deemed President by fellow preselected leaders of the colony. Weighing out the advantages and disadvantages of locations to build their settlement, the English chose Jamestown Island. Its high, cleared land and naturally defensible location made for an ideal pick. The

W.L. not yet

incomplete

market for

¹ William M. Kelso, *Jamestown, the buried truth*, (Virginia: University of Virginia Press, 2006), 2.

island provided an open view both up and down the river, enabling the colonists to easily watch for any enemies who might approach by water.¹ Additionally, the James River was deep almost all the way up to the shore, allowing the men to dock the ships directly to the trees on the land, which made embarking from and unloading the ships considerably less difficult.¹ When speaking of the island, John Smith considered it to be “a very fit place for erecting of a great cittie.”² Arriving on the *Susan Constant*, the *Godspeed*, and the *Discovery*, the settlers were introduced to a land where crops grew in abundance, the fish and game were plentiful, and wild plants, nuts, and fruits were all available.³ It wasn't long after disembarking on the island that the colonizers would face a slew of new struggles.

Not long after their arrival in May did the colony face their first fight, drought. The summer of 1607 drought made the James River less safe to drink, frequently sickening the men with salt poisoning. Along with the drought came the burden of the delayed corn crops that the English were supposed to be receiving from the Native Americans.⁴ The English depended heavily on trade with the Indians. The Virginia Company officials “never thought it was their duty to see that their colony was properly supplied with food.”⁵ England's main concern was getting the men to Virginia and having them fend for themselves to make money for the stockholders back home.⁶ In addition to having little food or supplies, the settlers sent over were rarely specialized in anything and were considered “gentlemen,” lacking many necessary survival techniques and unused to hard manual labor.¹ Those sent to the colony were not intended

² Kelso, *Jamestown*, 14.

³ Dennis Montgomery, *1607: Jamestown and the New World*, (Pennsylvania: Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, 2007), 68.

⁴ Helen C. Rountree and E. Randolph Turner III, *Before and After Jamestown. Virginia's Powhatans and Their Predecessors*, (Florida: University Press of Florida, 2002), 142.

⁵ Carl Bridenbaugh, *Jamestown, 1544 – 1699*, (New York: Oxford University Press, 1980), 45.

⁶ Montgomery, *1607 Jamestown and the New World*, 70.

A

Spanish
B
Trade!

to be farmers, but rather adventurers who would explore the land, record its territories, and exploit its resources in order to turn a profit. Whether they were incapable or just chose not to, the settlers refused to work, not even to keep themselves fed and healthy, choosing instead to weaken and waste away. This is why the English reached out to the Native Americans. Their goal was to immediately establish trade relations with the Indians and be continuously supplied by them during the settlement's early years. Although the English-Indian encounters were often "superficially friendly," they both benefited from each other's goods.⁷ The Powhatan's wanted them as possible allies against their Indian enemies and Spanish ships.⁸ They were also highly intrigued and interested by their copper, beads and swords.⁹ The English on the other hand sought to exploit the land for commodities they would be able to sell, along with food from crops and game.¹⁰ With high ambitions, the colonizers wasted no time embarking on this new adventure.

It was late June when commander of the original fleet, Captain Christopher Newport, set out back to England and returned in early 1608 with supplies.¹¹ The numerous ~~arriving~~ supply ships added to the food burden because of the increase in the number of people in the colony.¹² When Wingfield was impeached for allegedly hoarding food, Smith took over as the colony's manager.¹³ The idea that Jamestown's disastrous beginning was caused by poor leadership can be disputed by looking at measures taken by Smith to help preserve the colony. He was then elected president in September of 1608 and pushed for further construction along with

Aid + They
bring
supplies

⁷ Rountree and Turner III, *Before and After Jamestown*, 141-142.
⁸ Rountree and Turner III, *Before and After Jamestown*, 142.
⁹ Montgomery, *1607*, 70.
¹⁰ Rountree and Turner III, *Before and After Jamestown*, 142.
¹¹ Montgomery, *1607 Jamestown and the New World*, 68.
¹² Montgomery, *1607 Jamestown and the New World*, 70.
¹³ Kelso, *Jamestown*, 18.

restoration of organization and discipline. To ensure that the settlers were helping out in the rebuilding, a “must work or no food” policy was instituted.¹⁴ Although Smith provided the colony with unified leadership, it wasn’t enough to ensure the cultivation of crops. Acres of land were cleared for agriculture, but “hunger and sickness not permitting any great matters to be done.”¹⁵ After observing the Indians semi-nomadic lifestyle, he felt it would be best for the English to follow the same idea in order to survive. His solution was to divide the colonists into three separate groups along the new country. While many followed suit, there were still numerous people that were unconvinced of this practice. Some colony members that obliged and moved away for the summer created a small settlement called Nansmond. This group of colonists had a much lower mortality rate than those that remained. It is imagined that if the rest of the settlement had listened to Smith, survival rates would have been much higher. So it was possible that the little success among the settlement wasn’t the leaders fault, but it instead was the fault of those who chose not to listen to the advice of the leaders.

After Smith went exploring in 1609, he returned to Jamestown he returned with a life-threatening wound.¹⁶ Sending Smith home to recover, George Percy served as a stand in governor.¹⁷ The winter of 1609 – 1610 (the starving time) was a rough one, and with little to no preparation for it many people went hungry. With drought conditions continuing, and then combined with harsh winters meant that “pressure on food supplies and native polities was increasing while the colonists’ willingness and ability to feed themselves seemed to decline.”¹⁸

The Englishmen ate what was left of roots, herbs, nuts, berries, and some fish. Some colonists

¹⁴ Kelso, *Jamestown*, 19.

¹⁵ Montgomery, *1607 Jamestown and the New World*, 70.

¹⁶ Kelso, *Jamestown*, 20.

¹⁷ Kelso, *Jamestown*, 10.

¹⁸ Karen Ordahl Kupperman, *The Jamestown Project*, (Massachusetts: Belknap Press of Harvard University, 2007), 251.

even resorted to cannibalism or horses for nourishment.¹⁹ The Indians, knowing how heavily the English rely on their resources, stopped trade when the English no longer had goods that the natives wanted which added to their already difficult struggle to find food.²⁰ The Virginia Company's *True and Sincere Declaration* said that the Indians "withdrew from all commerce and trafficke with them, cunningly making a war upon them."²¹ According to "The Starving Time, 1609-1610", whatever livestock the settlers should have had to eat, such as pigs, goats, or sheep, was being eaten by the commanders of the fort or by hostile Native Americans.²² The General Assembly admitted that from the years 1609-1614 the English were in face at war with the natives.²³ Without trade from the Native Americans or a food supply of their own, the settlers' only hope for survival was refuge from home.

↑ suck that

A fleet of supply ships under Sir Thomas Gates was intended to provide relief and rescue.²⁴ Instead, a hurricane destroyed the leading *Sea Venture* ship along with much of the rest of the fleet, leaving them stranded in Bermuda.²⁵ Finally during the following spring, in May of 1610, two replacement ships arrived from Bermuda.²⁶ Even though some supplies were available, it wasn't enough. When Gates saw the island upon his arrival he said the settlement looked more like "the ruins of some ancient fortification than that any people living might now inhabit it. Percy confessed "men were destroyed with cruel diseases as swellings, fluxs, burning fevers, and by wars, and some departed suddenly, but for the most part they died of mere

¹⁹ Warren M. Billings, *Old Dominion in the Seventeenth Century: A documentary history of Virginia, 1606-1689*, (Virginia: University of North Carolina Press, 1975), 28

²⁰ Rountree and Turner III, *Before and After Jamestown*, 143.

²¹ Kupperman, *Jamestown Project*, 251.

²² Billings, *Old Dominion*, 28-29.

²³ Bridenbaugh, *Jamestown, 1544 - 1699*, 50.

²⁴ Kelso, *Jamestown*, 20.

²⁵ Montgomery, *1607 Jamestown and the New World*, 73.

²⁶ Kelso, *Jamestown*, 21.

famine.”²⁷ Gates decided it would be best to just abandon Jamestown and on June 7th the 60 surviving settlers out of 500 set sail for either a different location or England. Powhatan had this time defeated the English, or so they thought. Any plans for abandonment were pushed aside when Governor Lord De La Warr from England met up with the fleeing colonists on their escape downriver. With Lord De La Warr’s supply in 1610, the settlement was rejuvenated with the additions of craftsmen, artisans, laws, and a strict military discipline.²⁸ The improvements and maturity that was introduced into Jamestown upon his arrival indicated that the colony met its initial challenges, overcame them, and found a footing as a permanent settlement.

Hunger, disease, and poor organization by the settlers and their leaders led to the downfall of the 1607 Jamestown colony. With no adequate preparation, the English weren’t ready for the life they were introduced to in Virginia. In their eyes, Jamestown was a land littered with gold, but in reality it was nothing but a land full of rough terrain, contaminated water, disease, and unwelcome neighbors. Lacking willingness to do manual labor on their own, salvation had lied in the hands of the Indians. And that was nothing but wishful thinking. Although Jamestown is generally considered a failure, it is in fact a major milestone in the United States history. Being the first English settlement to remain perpetually active on the North American continent has created quite a legacy.

We need to talk about
your paper.

²⁷ Kelso, *Jamestown*, 17- 18.

²⁸ Kelso, *Jamestown*, 22-23.

**The History of the Jamestown Colony:
Seventeenth-Century and Modern Interpretations**

A Senior Honors Thesis

**Presented in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for graduation *with research distinction* in
History in the undergraduate colleges of the Ohio State University**

By

Sarah McBee

**The Ohio State University at Mansfield
June 2009**

Project Advisor: Professor Heather Tanner, Department of History

new world was promising. The investors had many different hopes – the discovery of precious metals; a water passage to the Indies; friendly and beneficial trade with the natives; and the labor of the colonists themselves in the production of marketable commodities.¹⁷

In short, the venture was primarily an economic one.¹⁸ Those who would be sent to the colony were not intended to be farmers, but rather adventurers who would explore the land, chart its territories, and exploit its resources in order to turn a profit.¹⁸ Additionally, the entire system of the colony was set up so that the colonists would not have to initially rely upon themselves for food. Rather the goal was that they immediately establish trade relations with the Indians and be continuously supplied by them during the settlement's early years.¹⁹ This goal is evident in the royal charter issued by King James I approving this plan on April 10, 1606 – “In all your passages you must have great care not to offend the naturals, if you can eschew it; and employ some few of your company to trade with them for corn and other lasting victuals...”²⁰ James’ charter granted the Virginia Company of both London and Plymouth permission to establish colonies in the new world.²¹

In the pages that follow, I will briefly trace Jamestown’s development as a settlement from its establishment in the spring of 1607 through the first meeting of its representative government in 1619. There are roughly two periods within this time frame. The first is 1607-1610, which I view as the critical period for the colony. This was a time in which virtually every

¹⁷ Craven, *Dissolution*, 28-29.

¹⁸ Bly Straube, unpublished lecture (Jamestown, Virginia, June 13, 2008). In many of the early accounts and letters written from Jamestown, the colonists spoke of their efforts at discovering resources and commodities in the new world that would create a supportable market economy. For example, Gabriel Archer wrote of the richness of the land, prompting him to say, “I know not what can be expected from a commonwealth that either this land affords not or may soon yield.” Gabriel Archer, “The description of the now-discovered river and country of Virginia, with the likelihood of ensuing riches by England’s aid and industry (1607),” in Haile, *Jamestown Narratives*, 121. Note how even the title Archer gave to this writing indicates the colonists’ goal of bringing riches to their mother country.

¹⁹ Ibid.

²⁰ “Instructions given by way of advice, by us whom it hath pleased the King’s majesty to appoint of the council for the intended voyage to Virginia, to be observed by those captains and company which are sent at this present to plant there (1606),” in Haile, *Jamestown Narratives*, 21.

²¹ Haile, *Jamestown Narratives*, 14.

featured high ridges of land ideal for construction of a fort.³⁰ Additionally, the channel of the James River was deep almost all the way up to the shore, allowing the men to moor the ships right to the large trees on the land. This made embarking from and unloading the ships considerably easier. These were clear advantages that apparently outweighed any potential problems with the expanses of marshland directly below the higher ground on the island.³¹



The new settlers set to work immediately. Some began building the fort, in the triangular style popular at the time, while others including John Smith and Christopher Newport traveled upriver to explore the land and make contact with the natives.³² William Strachey in 1612 wrote that Jamestown lay within the dominion of a “great king” of the natives, called Powhatan – “In these provinces where we are, we may well say how this tract or portion of land, which we call Virginia Britannia, by the inhabitants as aforesaid Tsenacommacah....”³³ The Tsenacommacans as they called themselves, or the Powhatans as the English named them after their leader, did not live at Jamestown at that time, but the site remained within their jurisdiction. Smith and Newport’s river venture appeared to be a success, despite the fact that a group of Powhatans, most likely unaware of the negotiations taking place upriver, attacked the unfinished James Fort while the party was gone.³⁴

At the end of June, Christopher Newport departed for England with the ships, taking back with him some of the exports the colonists had already produced, including clapboard and a

³⁰ William M. Kelso, *Jamestown: The Buried Truth* (Charlottesville: University of Virginia Press, 2006), 12-14.

³¹ *Ibid.*

³² John Smith, “General History,” in Haile, *Jamestown Narratives*, 224.

³³ William Strachey, “The History of Travel into Virginia Britannia (1612),” in Haile, *Jamestown Narratives*, 613.

³⁴ John Smith, “A True Relation of such occurrences and accidents of note as hath hap’ned in Virginia since the first planting of that colony which is now resident in the south part thereof, till the last return from thence (1608),” in Haile, *Jamestown Narratives*, 147.

Any plans for abandonment were put aside thanks to the timely arrival from England of yet another new Governor, Lord De La Warr, whose advance party met the fleeing colonists as they journeyed downriver.⁵⁹ With Lord De La Warr's supply in 1610, the settlement was rejuvenated in the nick of time thanks to new provisions and people.⁶⁰ The Company officials had sent a variety of artisans and craftsmen, hoping again to stumble across more than one marketable commodity that could be produced in the colony. Lord De La Warr was able to improve conditions by imposing a strict military discipline, the "Laws Divine, Morall, and Martiall."⁶¹ These laws laid out the requirements for the colonists and the penalties for transgression, and finally provided the solid and enforceable leadership the colony had lacked more often than not.⁶²

The gradually improving conditions at Jamestown led William Strachey, the colony's secretary, to rejoice that, "Commodities...may be supplied to us in our own country and by our own industry..." and that Virginia was "one of the goodliest countries under the sun."⁶³ In 1613, a cash crop was discovered in the form of tobacco, which finally produced the substantial economic return the mother country had been waiting on.⁶⁴ John Rolfe, the leading instigator of the tobacco industry, married Pocahontas in the Jamestown church in 1614 after she had been kept at the colony as a hostage for several years.⁶⁵ The marriage appears to have been an affectionate one, and both the Englishmen and the natives viewed the event as a temporary non-aggression treaty.⁶⁶

⁵⁹ Kelso, *Buried Truth*, 22-23.

⁶⁰ Ibid.

⁶¹ Haile, *Jamestown Narratives*, 27-36.

⁶² Ibid.

⁶³ Strachey, "True Reportory," in Haile, *Jamestown Narratives*, 443.

⁶⁴ John Rolfe, "A True Relation of the State of Virginia" (1617), in Haile, *Jamestown Narratives*, 871.

⁶⁵ Mann, "America, Found and Lost," 45.

⁶⁶ Ibid.