

**SEEDBED OF AMERICA:**  
**THE HISTORY AND RECORDS OF THE EASTERN SHORE**  
*Presentation by G. Ray Thompson, PhD for GRIVA, 28 March 2023*

- I. Introduction**
- II. Maps and Boundary Issues**
- III. Coming to the Eastern Shore**
  - A. National origins of early settlers**
  - B. Motives for coming to Virginia**
    - 1. Motives of 1<sup>st</sup> group of settlers**
    - 2. Motives of later settlers**
  - C. Passenger Lists and what they tell us**
    - 1. 1619 list**
    - 2. 1621 list**
    - 3. 1622 list**
  - D. Early Censuses of Eastern Shore of Va.**
    - 1. 1623**
    - 2. 1624/5**
    - 3. Surnames of earliest settlers**
  - E. Literacy**
- IV. Establishment of a society on the Eastern Shore**
  - A. Isolated nature of Eastern Shore**
  - B. 1610 arrival of first settlers on Eastern Shore**
  - C. 1614 settlement**
  - D. 1618 changes in land holding policy**
  - E. 1620 settlers**
  - F. Relations with Native Americans**
    - 1. Thomas Savage**
    - 2. Debedeavon and his land gift**
- V. Beginnings of Representative Government on Eastern Shore of Va**
  - A. Ye Kingdom of Accawmacke**
  - B. Establishment of courts in 1632**
  - C. Establishment of Northampton County**
  - D. Religious issues**
  - E. Northward movement of settlers**
- VI. Socio-economic development of Eastern Shore Society**
  - A. Old Planters**
  - B. Emerging small planter class**
  - C. Watermen and tradesmen**
  - D. Indentured Servants**
  - E. Arrival of Africans in 1619**
- VII. Problems with establishing a permanent colony in Virginia**
  - A. Mortality**
  - B. Lack of towns**
  - C. isolated nature of the Shore**
- VIII. Economic growth of the Eastern Shore Inhabitants**

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- A. Headright system**
- B. Land grant process**
  - 1. Warrant**
  - 2. Certificate**
  - 3. Patent**
  - 4. Deed**
  - 5. Rent roll**
  - 6. Debt books**
  - 7. Land Commissions**
  - 8. Quit Rent**
- C. Tithables and family development**
- IX. Religion on the Eastern Shore**
  - A. Anglican Church**
  - B. Dissenting Churches and arrival of Presbyterians**
  - C. Quakers**
  - D. Church Records**
- X. Northward Expansion of Settlers**
  - A. Northampton**
  - B. Economic reasons for move**
  - C. Expansion of population**
  - D. Division of Eastern Shore of Va. into 2 counties**
  - E. Settlement of Quakers in Somerset**
  - F. Laws regarding perpetual slavery 1661 and 1664**
- XI. The Diaspora from the Eastern Shore: Seedbed of America**