

## In Appreciation or perhaps Apologies to William Shakespeare

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### Prologue

As I come before this auspicious company tonight, I come with some trepidation. I am presenting a historical paper, and I am not an historian. However, this is a subject which I have been interested in for many years.

This story is presented in three parts. The first part introduces the characters in the story. I shall try to define some interesting facts about these characters which do not appear in any of the common histories.

The second section deals with forming the team. In this, I attempt to identify how the characters interrelate to establish the organization to meet their defined goals. Part of the story will be how they defined their goals and what some of the steps were to approach these goals.

Finally, there is a discussion of when these initial goals are reached, and what is the effect is upon the group.

### Introduction to Characters

The Tudors presided over an era of great expansion in England. Actually, *“By the economic standards of the time, England in the middle of the sixteenth century was an underdeveloped country.”* It had not yet shared developments with the advances of the remainder of continental Europe. With this in mind, I shall begin my tale with Henry VIII and the individuals in his court. These individuals provided the foundation of the remainder of the story.

*“KATHARINE*

*So may he rest; his faults lie gently on him!  
Yet thus far, Griffith, give me leave to speak him,  
And yet with charity. He was a man  
Of an unbounded stomach, ever ranking  
Himself with princes; one that, by suggestion,  
Tied all the kingdom: simony was fair-play;  
His own opinion was his law: I the presence  
He would say untruths; and be ever double  
Both in his words and meaning: he was never,  
But where he meant to ruin, pitiful:  
His promises were, as he then was, mighty;  
But his performance, as he is now, nothing:  
Of his own body he was ill, and gave  
The clergy in example.”*

*‘Henry VIII, ACT IV, Scene 2’*

Ole King Hank had promised his pap on the death of his elder brother, Arthur, to marry his brother’s wife, Katherine of Aragon, and sire a male heir to the throne. This promise dominated Ole Hank’s life and behavior. He and Kate married in 1509 and Anne Boleyn in 1533, after his divorce from Kate. Hank also had several mistresses, among whom was a Mistress Agnes Blewitt. She, by him, had a son who was born after she married William Edwards. This son was named Richard Edwards. Richard was accommodated many honors in the court. He was nearly the same age as Kate’s daughter, Mary, and they often played and studied together.

Hank and Kate had several other off-springs, both male and female, but the only survivor was Mary. Hank's roving eye saw Mary Boleyn, and he had an affair with her. Through Mary, Henry met her sister Anne, and promptly fell in love with her. They met at the Gargoyle Club in SOHO. As a member myself since 1956, I have a history of the club which includes the stories of Anne and Henry as well as the story of Jane Seymour and Henry. From these records I believe that Henry was a regular patron of the club.

### Richard Rich

One of Henry's councilors was Richard Rich. Rich was the type of person who was the hallmark of duplicity. He had no firm morals, neither social nor religious, but would serve his monarch in every way possible. His great-grandfather had been an Archbishop of Canterbury. His grandfather was the Lord Mayor of London. His father was a merchant/trader, had overseen Richard Rich's schooling. Richard had attended Cambridge and completed his studies in 1516. At that time he became a lawyer through the installation in Middle Temple. This was a man who gave our legal beagles their bad name. A recent study published by BBC, solicited opinions from historians and scholars as to who were the most beastly 10 Britons of the past millennium. There stood Richard Rich with 'Jack the Ripper', Thomas Arundel and others. Altogether, he was a despicable man.

Rich oversaw the execution and torture of Anne Boleyn, the executions of Thomas More, a schoolmate of Richard's, Bishop John Fisher, and including his patron Thomas Cromwell. As first Chancellor of the Court of Augmentation, along with Thomas Cromwell, he oversaw the dissolution of the monasteries, priories and churches when Henry VIII set up the Church of England.

In King Hank's court, he had been involved in the raising of Princess Mary. After the divorce from Kate, young Mary had suddenly been demoted in rank within the Palace. Rich had overseen her neglect, the harshness of her education, and her

loss of social stature. Mary was aware of his involvement and strongly disliked him. She was also aware of the treatment of her mother, which Rich had also overseen. The visits in the tower always left young Mary with the feeling of terror.

Rich married Elizabeth Gynkes and had fifteen children by her, two of which are involved in the continuing story. These are Robert, the eldest son and heir and Richard, a younger son. Robert was said to have inherited his father's penchant for morose moods, while young Richard, like his father, was everyman's 'hail fellow, well met'.

### Edwin Sandys, Knight, Member of Parliament

Edwin Sandys ((pronounced SANDS) was known for being one of the wisest men in Parliament, a leader, a spokesman, and a valued advisor for the King. He was also very important in the early settlement of America. Sandys was the son of an Archbishop of the Church of England and a member of the nobility. He was educated at Oxford and become a lawyer through the Middle Temple.

In parliament he was a supporter of the Tudor monarchs and an early supporter of King James I. Under James I, he became one of the most important personages in parliament and advisor to the King. Later, after the letters of patent for both the Virginia Company and the Massachusetts Company, Sandys retired from politics and became the leader of the two companies.

His first involvement was with the East India Company, which was quickly superseded by leadership of the London Company. From his activity with the Virginia Company, Sandys had a monopoly on the import of Virginia tobacco. This added greatly to his fortune.

Both his brother, George, and his son Edwin were among the early colonists in Virginia. King James I appointed George to be a member of the council. Edwin later was elected to the early legislature in Williamsburg.

#### Thomas West - Knight of the Garter VI – Lord de la Warre

Thomas West, along with Lady Cecilia was among the first nobles to take residence in the Virginia colony. They selected a tract provided by King James across the Potomac from Jamestown, in what is now the state of Delaware, His support for the mutual petition for a patent to allow the London Company to settle Virginia was most important. As a Member of Parliament, he helped generate support in Parliament for the authorization.

#### Fulke Grevill (father & son) – Lord Brooke, Lord Warwick

Fulke Grevill was an early member and a leader of the London Company prior to the patent for settlement of the Virginia Company. He was known for a pleasant disposition, honor, integrity and courage in support of the King. He was one of the richest men in England, thanks to his mother, Elizabeth, heir of both Lord Brooke and Lord Willoughby and Ward of Fulke's father, as well as distantly related to the Grevill family. Specifically how he was relieved of the title Lord Warwick, which was adopted by Richard Rich, is unclear.

As a major participant in the London Company, he actively supported the Virginia Company and after the early ships left for Virginia, he became active in the New England ventures.

## Dudley, Lord North & brother Charles North, Knight

Dudley North succeeded to the title of Lord North from his grandfather, Roger. He was known as a man of great activity who contributed greatly to the court. In particular, he funded many amusements in the court of King James, although he had been active in the court from the time of Elizabeth I until after the Restoration from Oliver Cromwell.

Both Dudley and Charles actively and financially participated in the London Company, particularly the Levant Company and the Virginia Company. The activity of the Virginia Company resolved the issues of excessive spending for Dudley after he retired from the court during the reign of Prince Henry.

### Forming of Team

In November 1605 a group of men met in the City of London at one of the Merchant clubs. All were men of great wealth. They were investors and mainly noblemen who had aspirations of enhancing the wealth of England. At that time, England was mainly a backwater state compared to France and Spain. What trade they had was mainly woolens which they traded to the Baltic States, Russia, and Italy. Their main port, Southampton was a Spanish Port. The English did their shipping from London. England had not yet formed a significant trade in coal from Newcastle.

The lighting in the streets of the city was nearly non-existent. Pick-pockets were rampant, as well as thieves and assorted unsavory people. The city was overcrowded and many of the citizens were very poor. This was prior to the fire of London, which happened several years later, Because of this, the ornate carriages of these men were guarded by footmen, who also acted as assistants to help them to leave their carriages and enter whatever club they desired.

The horse's hooves and the rattle of the wheels on the cobblestone streets announced the coming of these men. As is frequently the case in London in November, the twilight chill included a misty rain and fog. This further limited visibility and allowed the threatening denizens of this region to approach even more closely. The armed footmen on the carriages gripped their weapons for quick action.

Among those arriving was Lord Robert Rich and his brother Richard, Lord Dudley North, Lord Fulke Grevill, Sir Thomas West – Earl de la Warre, and Sir Edwin Sandys. They were meeting to plan a venture for their trading company, the London Company. During Queen Elizabeth's reign, Sir Walter Raleigh had attempted an unsuccessful venture to establish a colony in Virginia, called the Roanoke Colony. At the time England had been involved in several wars with France, Spain, and the Netherlands, as well as some domestic disturbances with the Scots and dissident counties. It was relatively peaceful; now. The only issue on the high seas was the French. And the English ships seemed to be somewhat better than the French ships. Now would be a good time to again attempt to get a new world colony started. The minutes from the November meeting of the London Company discussed all these issues in much greater detail. They also discuss how Sir de la Warre's carriage had been attacked on the way to the meeting. As a consequence of this meeting, it was decided to approach King James for a request for a patent and charter to allow such an endeavor.

Other mercantile endeavors were also being planned to place before King James. The nobles knew of the East India Company who planned to establish the West India Company, the Muscovy Company, the New England Ventures, and Cavendish Ventures. Some of those present were also investors in these other ventures.

Individually and collectively, they had a significant fleet of ships upon which they could draw, This would minimize the participation of the monarchy in the funding

of the venture, The monarchy would participate only in the collection of taxes, i.e., all profit, no cost.

A delegation was selected to petition King James. These men were Sir Thomas Gates, Sir George Somers, Richard Hakluyt and others. On April 6, 1606 a patent was signed by King James. Three ships were selected and fully outfitted. They were the 'Sarah Constant' under Captain Christopher Newport, the 'Goodspeed' under Captain Bartholomew Gosnold, and the 'Discovery' under Captain John Radcliffe. Along with the ships came the charter and sailing order signed and sealed by King James.

One of the more significant instructions to all the personnel aboard this venture was '...In all your passages you must take great care not to offend the naturals...' 'from a manuscript signed by King James to colonists, 1606'. This little fleet left the Thames on 19 Dec. 1606 but because of weather could not depart into the ocean until 1 Jan. 1607.

After some dissension aboard, John Smith was suspected of mutiny on Feb. 12th. The fleet arrived in Virginia on Apr 29th. Upon arrival, the sealed orders from King James were opened and the counselors were selected. They were Edward Wingfield, Bartholomew Gosnold, John Smith, Christopher Newport, John Radcliffe, John Martin, and John Kendall. Among this group all were knights except one Gentleman, Edward Wingfield. Wingfield was the grandson of Sir Robert Wingfield of Huntingdonshire and the son of Thomas Maria Wingfield. He was christened by Queen Mary and had very strong connections in court; and had also been delegated as a personal representative by the Virginia Company. He was elected the first President of Council, a strict disciplinarian and of honorable birth.

The ships descended the James River and found good anchorage and landing on a peninsula that was easily fortified. In honor of their King they called this

Jamestown and proceeded to build a triangular fort. (Gee, I have seen and been in square forts, round forts, but never a triangular fort.)

On May 26th, with some of the men out exploring, about 200 Indians attacked the unfinished fort. Wingfield displayed both his courage and his experience as a soldier by using the guns aboard the ships to drive off the Indians. However, he took an arrow through his beard and lost one boy and eleven wounded men, one of whom later died. The fort was finished on the 15<sup>th</sup> day of June. With notes from Wingfield and a longer missive by Newport written while at sea, the 'Sarah Constant' sailed to England with Captain Newport.

The swamps of the Chickahominy and the very humid weather were destructive to the colony during August. Nearly every day some colonists died. On Aug. 22nd, Captain Bartholomew Gosnold died. Shortly after dissension again broke out. John Kendall was deposed as a councilor with an accusation of creating ill-feeling. He was imprisoned by Wingfield. By the 11<sup>th</sup> of Sept. so much dissension had arisen to the point that three of the remaining councilmen, acting as a tribunal brought Winfield up on charges. With Radcliffe acting as president, and Smith and Martin acting together convicted him and locked him up on one of the two remaining ships,

By late autumn of 1607, the colonies supplies were down to the point where hunger was rife. John Smith, with some other men, went to the Indians on a trading mission. During the mission, two of his men were killed; however, after some negotiations, Smith was able to trade for supplies and returned to Jamestown. Gabriel Archer, a newly elected councilor but not in accordance with the directives from the King. He arrested and imprisoned Smith with Wingfield. Much to Wingfield's and Smith's delight, Newport arrived on Jan. 8, 1608 from England with supplies and more colonists. Newport immediately released the two men. One councilor was elected from among the new colonists, a man named Matthew Scrivener, a Gentleman. On April 10, the ship having been loaded, left

for England with Archer and Wingfield as passengers. It arrived on May 20 in England. Wingfield, in answer to the objections to his rule, had a prepared statement to the London Companies inquiry.

During this inquiry, Captain Newport was replaced on the 'Sarah Constant' by Captain Nelson. However, when the inquiry was completed, Captain Newport was given another of the London Company ship and returned to Jamestown. With two ships providing supplies and additional colonists, the Jamestown colony continued to grow.

The winter of 1609-1610 was a time of travail for the colony. It came to be known as the 'starving time'. Many of the 600 colonists who started that period died during that winter. Because of the weather, supply ships from England did not arrive. Powhatten's Indians stopped trading food for beads. They had more than enough beads for their purposes. The colonists had not yet found a cash crop with which to support themselves. The problems, when discovered in England, dried up additional investment in the Virginia Company. A share that cost 12 £ 10 s became nearly worthless. It took until 1619, when Edwin Sandys took over as treasurer for the company to turn around financially. However, the company did not stop the investments they were making in recruiting both colonists and providing supplies.

One story of those early years regarded John Smith and Pocahontas. We have all heard the story in grade school. However, there is more to the story than we have heard. Recent discoveries by archeologists have enhanced the story.

During the search for trade in Dec. 1608, John Smith, with two men from the colony were surprised by the Indians. The two men were killed and Smith was taken to Powhatten's village. Pocahontas was Powhatten's daughter and heir since Powhatten had no sons. She was as wily as her father and thought that the Indians could assimilate the 'white ones', if she were to marry their leader. She

knew that she could save his life by simply claiming him when he was condemned. As she discussed this with Powhatten, he also felt it was a good idea.

Powhatten called a council of leaders and condemned John Smith to be clubbed to death. At that time, Pocahontas intervened. When Smith realized what was happening, he took a look at her and told himself that this was not a bad idea. She would save his life. He would become an adopted member of the tribe, and a son of Powhatten. The colonies would get the supplies they needed. And as a final benefit, she was not a bad looker.

Well, things did get better for the colonists and he had a good woman to help him. All went well until he was severely burned in an explosion. He was so severely burned that all believed he would die. As a last resort, he was sent back to England on a supply ship. Everyone thought he would die during the voyage to England, but he surprised them. He didn't die then. After several years of recovery in England, he took off for the New World again. Now as a 'son' of Powhatten and the husband of Pocahontas, you would think he would at least let them know he was alive. But that is not who old John Smith was. Later Pocahontas sailed to England as a guest of the King, you know, one monarch to another. There she found out Smith was alive. She sent word back to Powhatten about what had happened, and that led to the war with Powhatten and the massacre that followed. The message is, beware a woman scorned.

Under Sandys, the financial support for the Virginia Company was established. Another Charter was proclaimed. And, the monarchy decided that a governor / legislature form of government should be established. This form of government was used until the revolution

## A Stable Situation

*"We are such stuff as dreams are made on ..."* (Act IV, Scene I – The Tempest)

The story continues as the Virginia Company, at the behest of King James sends a Governor to the colony. Selected for the assignment was Sir Thomas Gates. He sailed for Jamestown in the 'Sea Venture' along with the Admiral of the Company, Sir George Somers, Captain Newport and 147 others.

Unfortunately they ran into a storm, likely a hurricane (although I don't know the feminine name it bore) and they were shipwrecked in Bermuda. Also aboard was a passenger Richard Hunt, identified as 'Governor of Bermuda'. He was the great grandson of Baron/Lord Richard Rich. Since there were no plans at this time for the Virginia Company to settle Bermuda, careful research found that he was the governor of the Bermuda Plantation at Jamestown. Accompanying him, according to the SOB (Souls on Board) passenger list of the 'Sea Venture' were his wife and daughter.

Shakespeare used the tales of this shipwreck in planning and plotting his the play, 'The Tempest'. The passengers and crew, upon arrival on Bermuda, were deeply depressed. A feeling of darkness spread through them. After the indignity of losing their ship, they were still dealing with the storm. From whence would hope come?

*"This thing of darkness..."* (The Tempest Act V, Scene I)

Even as the play records, upon arrival on the shores of Bermuda, and the storm, clearing, the wreck of the 'Sea Venture' was salvaged and after careful reconstruction over several months, a sea worthy vessel resulted and the passengers and crew sailed on to Jamestown.

The establishment of a colonial Governor provided political stability until the Revolution. Sir Thomas Gates solidified the elected legislature of Virginia Colony. He also established a police force/militia to maintain the peace of the colony and defend it against both Indians and the Spanish from the south. They both wanted to annex the colony into their empire, and the Spanish with the destruction of the Spanish Navy when the Armada under Phillip was defeated by England, used privateers, otherwise known as pirates to do it.

Within a generation, the large population of colonists resulted in the expansion westward into Williamsburg and Richmond. The English foothold in the new world had been firmly established.