

VA.056 THE FOUNDING OF VIRGINIA COUNTIES.

Gathered & Entered in October 1989 by Robert R. Hill Sr. of Brandon, Florida.

Sources: Several sources over the years, but especially from the research on the Woodward Families by Jean Holley Day.

The colony of Virginia was divided into eight shires (or counties), to be governed as the shires in England. These shires and their populations were as follows, in 1634:

1. ACCAWMACK, "on the Eastern Shore, over the bay."  
Population 396.
2. CHARLES CITY, extending on both sides of James River.  
Population 511.
3. CHARLES RIVER, became YORK COUNTY; composed of plantations on York River. Population 510.
4. ELIZABETH CITY, both sides of Hampton Roads, north side of Newport News. Population ????
5. HENRICO, extended westward from Charles City County.  
Population 419.
6. JAMES CITY, both sides of (James) River. Population 886.
7. WARROSQUYOAKE, became Isle of Wight County in 1637.  
Population 522.
8. WARWICK RIVER, became Warwick County in 1642, population combined with Elizabeth City County, 1,670.
9. New Norfolk County was created from Elizabeth City County.

1637.

Four New Counties Created:

LOWER NORFOLK COUNTY & UPPER NORFOLK COUNTY were formed from NEW NORFOLK COUNTY.

NORFOLK COUNTY was formed from LOWER NORFOLK COUNTY, in 1636(?) and was changed to Chesapeake City in 1963.

NANSEMONS (NANSEMOND) COUNTY was created: formed from UPPER NORFOLK COUNTY.

1648

NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY was created; formed from the Indian District of Chickacoan.

1651

Lancaster County was created: formed from parts of Northumberland & York Counties.

Gloucester County was created: formed from York County.

1652

Surry County was created: formed from James City County.

1653

Westmoreland County was created: formed from Northumberland County.

1654

New Kent County was created: formed from York County and part of James City County.

1664

STAFFORD COUNTY was created: formed from Westmoreland County.

1673

MIDDLESEX COUNTY was created; formed from Lancaster County.

1691

KING & QUEEN COUNTY was created; formed from New Kent County.

1691

PRINCESS ANNE COUNTY was created; formed from Lower Norfolk County.

1692

ESSEX COUNTY was created; formed from Old Rappahannock County.

1701/02

King William County was created; formed from King & Queen County.

1720

BRUNSWICK COUNTY was created; formed from Prince George, Isle of Wight & Surry Counties.

1720-21

SPOTSYLVANIA COUNTY was created; formed from New Kent County.

KING GEORGE COUNTY was created; formed from RICHMOND & WESTMORELAND COUNTIES.

1727

GOOCHLAND COUNTY was created; formed from Henrico County.

1727-28

CAROLINE COUNTY was created; formed from parts of Essex, King & Queen & King William Counties, all of Virginia.

262 1734

AMELIA COUNTY was created; formed from Brunswick & Prince George Counties Virginia.

274 1744-45

ALBERMARLE COUNTY (Virginia) was created; formed from parts of Goochland & Louisa Counties.

278 1748

CULPEPER COUNTY (Virginia) was created; formed from Orange County.

280 1748/49

CUMBERLAND COUNTY was created; formed from Goochland County.

281 1749

SOUTHAMPTON COUNTY was created; formed from parts of Isle of Wight & Nansemond Counties.

289 1752

DINWIDDIE COUNTY was created; formed from Prince George County.

295 1753

BEDFORD COUNTY was created; formed from parts of Albermarle & Lunenburg Counties.

360 1776/77

WASHINGTON COUNTY was formed from FINCASTLE & MONTGOMERY COUNTIES in Virginia.

393 7 February 1782

CAMPBELL COUNTY was formed from Bedford County in Virginia.

435 June 1788

VIRGINIA became the tenth (10th) state to admitted to the Union. (NOTE: In the first three U.S. Census reported, 1790, 1800 & 1810, Virginia registered the highest population in the nation).

436 1789

GEORGE WASHINGTON was inaugurated as the first President of the United States.

457 1792/93

LEE COUNTY was created in Virginia, formed from parts of RUSSELL & SCOTT COUNTIES.