

## 740 History of Slavery in America OLLI Spring 2021

Week 2 Charter Generation in the Chesapeake

**Youtube:** Africans in America episode 1

### **Sources:**

Berlin, Ira Many Thousand Gone, The First Two Centuries of Slavery in North America 1619

Linda Heywood and John Thornton Central Africans, Atlantic Creoles, and the Foundation of the Americas, 1585-1660

**Summary:** The Portuguese war in Angola gave rise an increasing number of prisoners of war being captured and marched to the slave pens in Luanda for shipment to the new world. A ship called the Juan Bautists picked up a cargo of 350 enslaved men, women, and children to deliver to Veracruz Mexico. En route the ship was intercepted by two English privateers who boarded the ship and took about 60 enslaved men off the ship. The ships were the White Lion and the Treasure. They headed for the closest English port to take on provisions. The White Lion landed first at Point Comfort near present day Hampton VA. The ship's captain made a hasty deal with an official exchanging the enslaved men for food and water. The enslaved men and women were brought to Jamestown, a British colony that had been struggling for survival for a dozen years. Slavery was not yet an established legal status. Some men may have labored under indenture agreements. We know from court records there were Africans who obtained their freedom, owned land and slaves, brought suits to court, married and baptized children in church. Over the following 50 years the experience of the charter generation was legislated out of existence for the children and grandchildren. In 1676 Bacon's Rebellion precipitated a change from indentured servants as primary labor source to enslaved Africans as primary labor source. As the numbers of enslaved Africans grew in the Chesapeake, their ability to integrate into the colonies institutions disappeared.

### **Essential Understanding:**

- Terrible transformation of slave life from 1619 to 1670
- Causes and implications of Bacon's Rebellion
- How race replaced class in many social and economic conflicts in Chesapeake colonies.

### **Suggested Supplemental Materials and Activities**

Watch the first episode of Africans in America available on youtube

Read Marooned by Joseph Kelly

After two vaccinations take a trip to Jamestown to visit the museum and go on the NPS tour.