

Bacon's Rebellion

(1676-1677)



**Nathaniel Bacon
represents former
indentured
servants.**



**Governor
William Berkeley
of Jamestown**

Bacon's Rebellion Overview

- What: Virginia civil war over frontier & labor policies
- When: 1676
- Where: Tidewater, Virginia
- Who: Bacon and 500 disenfranchised former indentured servants from frontier versus Berkeley and Virginia elite
- Why? Land shortage and Indian relations
- Significance? Plantation owners gradually replaced indentured servants with African slaves because it was seen as a better investment in the long term than indentured servitude.

-Wealthy, frustrated son of English gentry

-Arrived in Virginia in 1674

-Cousin to Berkeley's wife

-Given seat on council by Berkeley

-Became Indian fighter after Indians killed one of his workers

-Led a group of men against Indians (making no distinction between foes and allies of Virginia)

-Led group to Jamestown and the colonial assembly where he demanded a commission to wage war against the Indians.

When Berkeley refused, Bacon threatened to kill the men in the assembly and extorted commission

-Died mysteriously after successfully taking Jamestown



-Governor of Virginia, appointed by Charles I

-governor from 1641-1652; 1660-1677

-Owned plantation

-Grew tobacco and experimented with Silkworms

-Persecuted Quakers and Puritans

-Created alliances with friendly natives

In order to buffer plantations from unfriendly natives

-Unwilling to attack Indians after frontier freemen were attacked

-Fought against Bacon for control of Virginia and its policies... and won

-Was punished by King Charles II for doing so



BACON'S REBELLION

