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**

- **White Indentured Servitude**
  - High Mortality
  - 1607-mid century

- **Labor System Shift**
  - Declining Mortality
  - circa 1650-1725

- **Racial Slavery**
  - "Normal" Mortality
  - 1720s -->

- Servants begin to survive their term of service

- Bacon's Rebellion, 1676