

*THE COLEMAN FAMILY*

*OF MOBJACK BAY,*

*VIRGINIA*

*compiled by*

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## COUNTY BOUNDARY MAPS

Studying patterns of migration are important when determining family lines. Adult children tended to settle in the same vicinity as their parents, until a shortage of land made it necessary to migrate. Sometimes a father provided land for a daughter upon her marriage, and the new son-in-law settled some distance from his home county. This was often an economic necessity, especially when family-held acreage could no longer support large families. The early generations of Colemans tended to stay in the same general area, although occasionally acquiring land in nearby counties.

Without records to trace who inherited the early land acquired by Colemans, we can only study the counties our ancestors settled in, and wonder at the reasons they did so. Using available land records, an analysis of the first four generations of Coleman children shows:

Thomas Coleman: Gloucester (Abingdon Parish)

Robert Coleman: Gloucester, New Kent, Old Rappahannock (now Essex), King & Queen, Caroline, Spotsylvania, Culpeper, Orange, Amherst

Joseph Coleman: Gloucester (Abingdon & Petsworth Parishes)

Daniel Coleman: Gloucester, New Kent, King & Queen, King William, Goochland, Cumberland, Pittsylvania

John Coleman: Gloucester (Abingdon & Petsworth Parishes), Essex, Caroline, Goochland, Buckingham, Albemarle, Amherst

Research on the changing boundary lines of Virginia counties revealed some interesting facts about the oldest successful English colony along the eastern seaboard.

Sir Walter Raleigh was granted a charter in 1584 for the development of a colony along the eastern coastline of America. This colony, on Roanoke Island off what became North Carolina, was doomed from its inception. Ill-prepared for survival in a wilderness, its settlers decimated by disease and starvation, the colony survived only two years, from 1585-87. A Thomas Coleman and his wife were members of this colony. The only clue left of the colonists was "CRO" carved on a tree, an obvious reference to

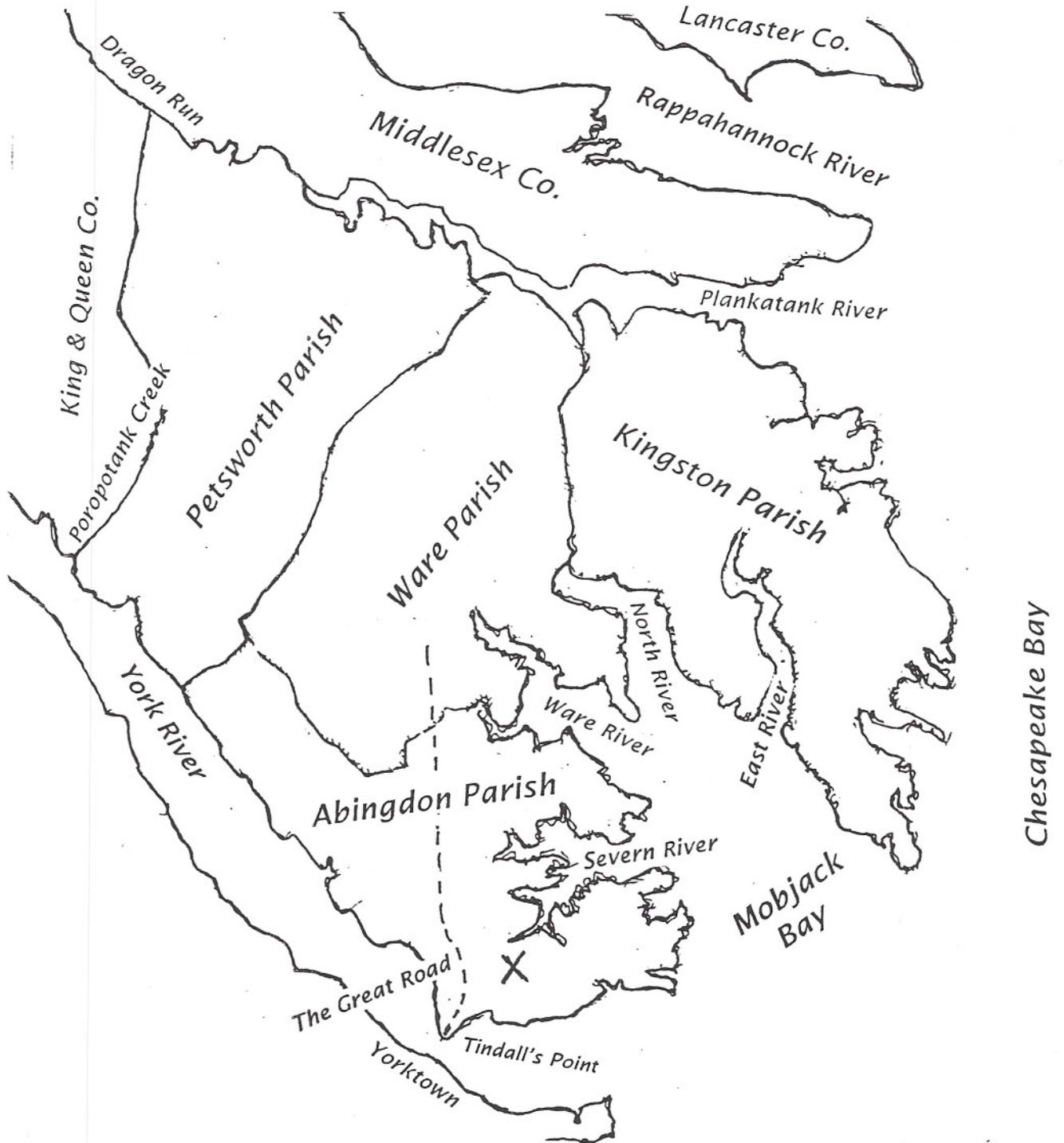
the Croatoan Indians who were friendly with the English settlers. No trace was ever found of the Raleigh colonists.

Although the first attempt at colonizing America failed, it did result in the naming of Virginia. Sir Walter Raleigh bestowed the name on this beautiful new country in honor of his good friend the Virgin Queen, Elizabeth I. At that time, no one had any idea how much land America encompassed. Virginia's boundary was established as the coastline of North America as far south as 34 degrees north and as far north as 45 degrees north, running east to west from sea to sea. The English assumed 'sea to sea' meant several hundred miles.

Virginia's boundary gradually changed through the years, reducing the size of the colony to make way for other settlements. By 1763, after the French and Indian War, Virginia's western boundary had receded from the Pacific Ocean to the Mississippi River. The size of Virginia was reduced even further in 1792 when the State of Kentucky was formed. Virginia's boundaries underwent a final reduction in size in 1863 when several of its western counties withdrew to form their own state, West Virginia, in order to remain in the Union.

Virginia county lines changed frequently as America began to expand. An influx of emigrants eager for a prosperous new life necessitated the forming of new counties to better govern the growing population. Familiarity with county boundaries makes it easier to track our ancestor's patterns of migration. The maps on the following pages should make those migrations easier to track. The counties were drawn by hand, and any resemblance to correct shape is by the grace of God. They are intended only for tracking purposes, not for the levying of any taxes.

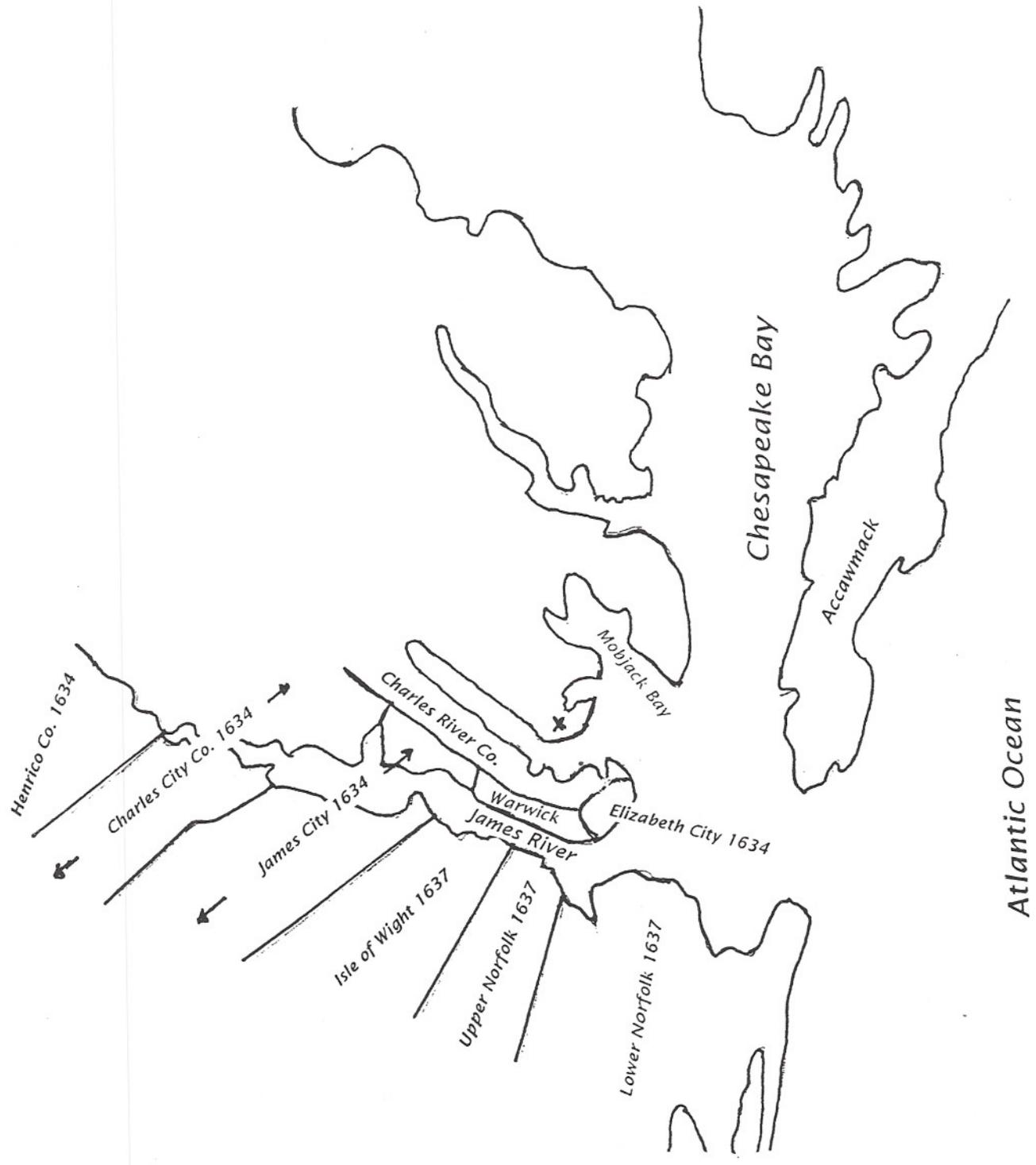
GLOUCESTER COUNTY IN COLONIAL VIRGINIA



X=Robert Coleman settled in this area.

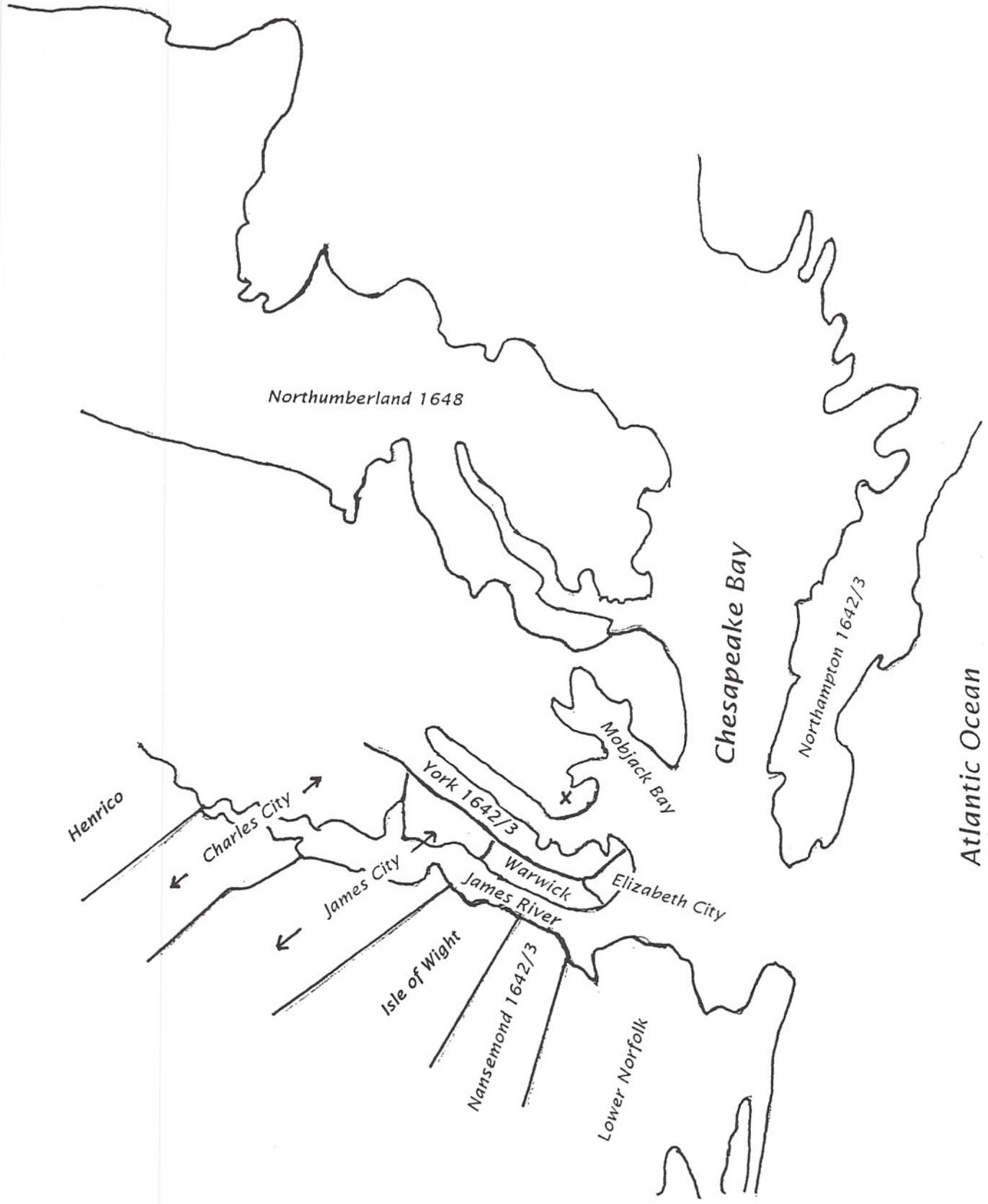
# COLONIAL VIRGINIA 1634-1640

X=Robert Coleman landed at Upper Norfolk on 2 Mar 1638. It is not known when he first settled at Mobjack Bay, Gloucester Co. By water, the trip between Upper Norfolk and what later became Gloucester Co. would have been a distance of about 50 miles.

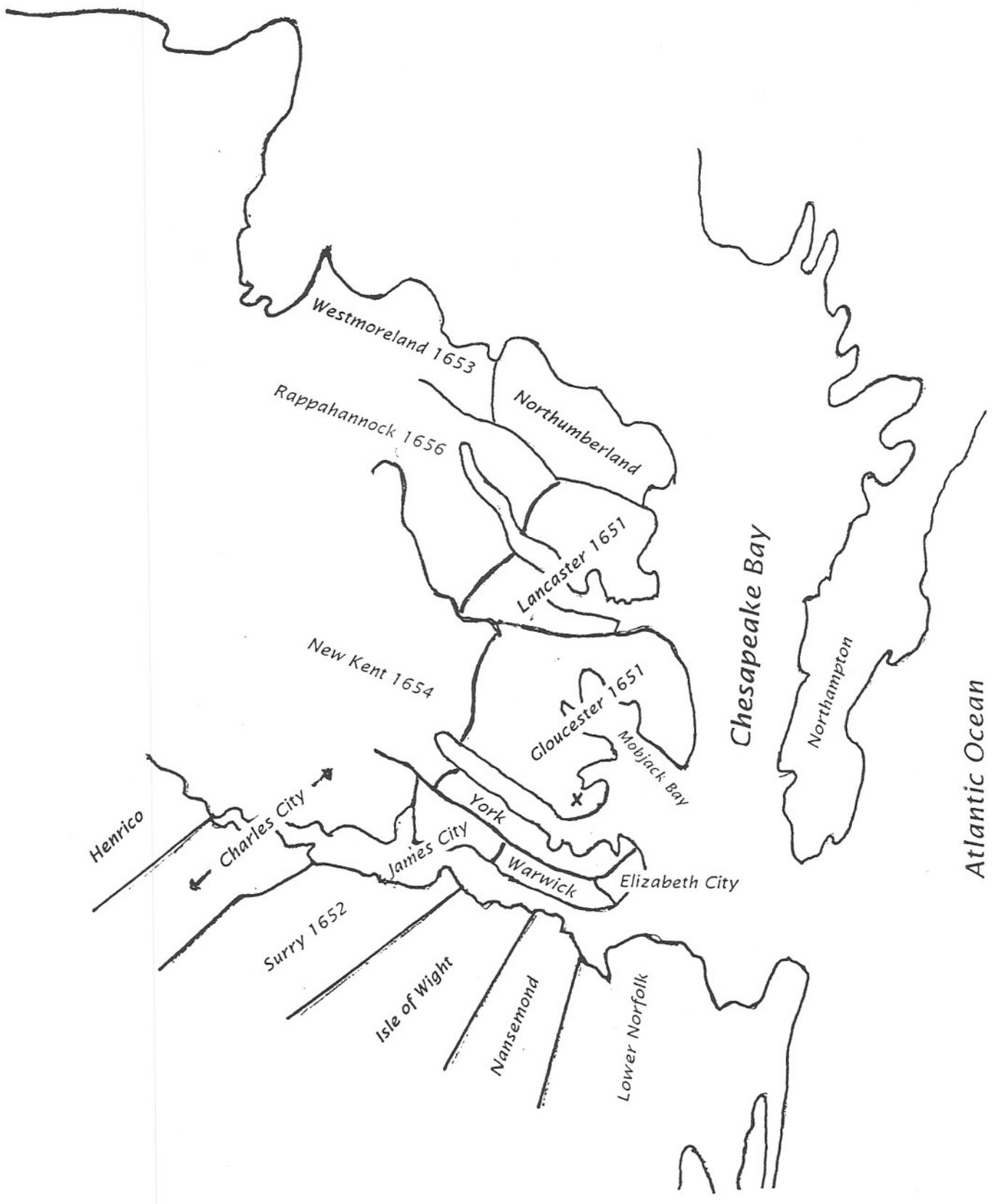


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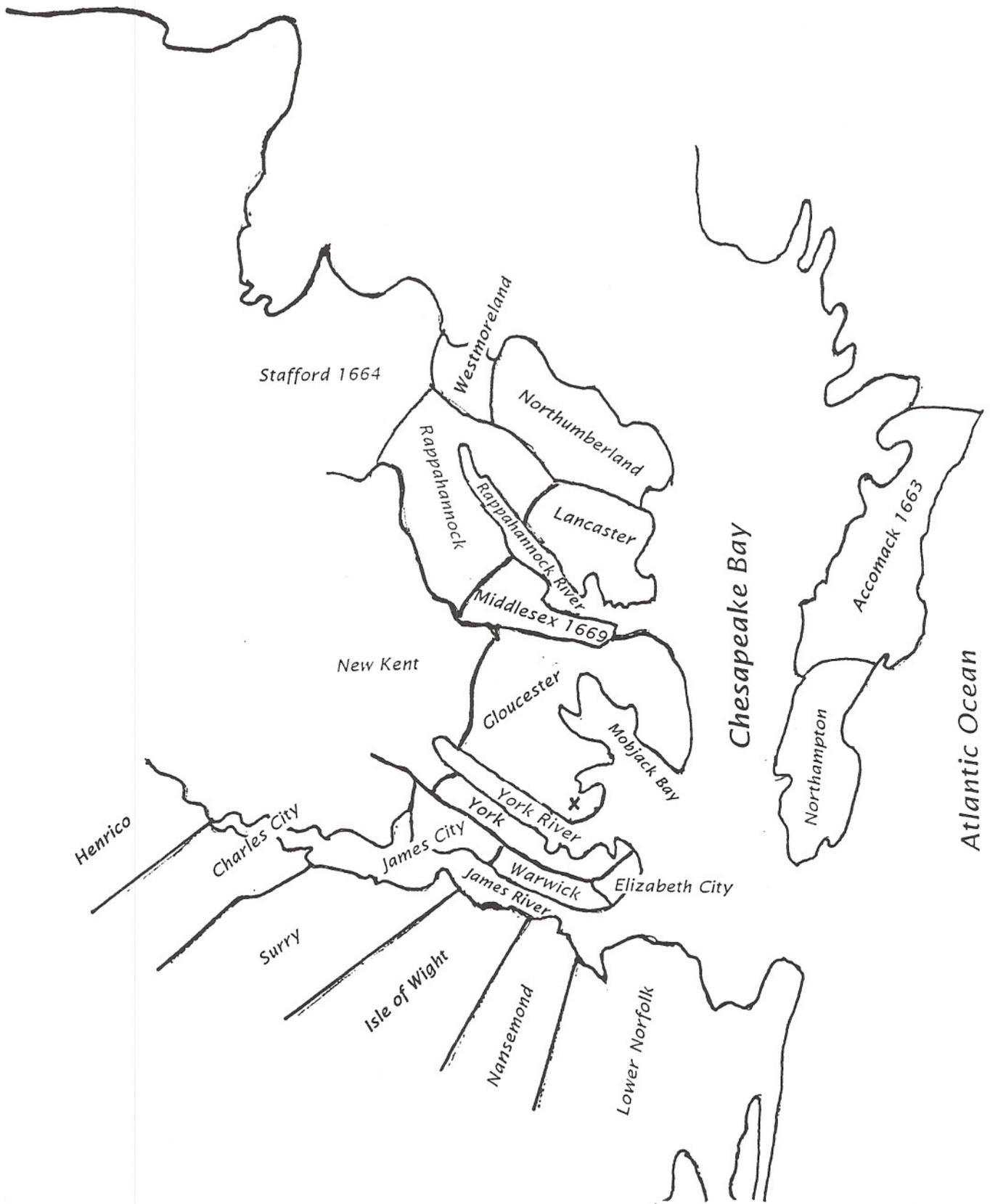
# COLONIAL VIRGINIA 1641-1650



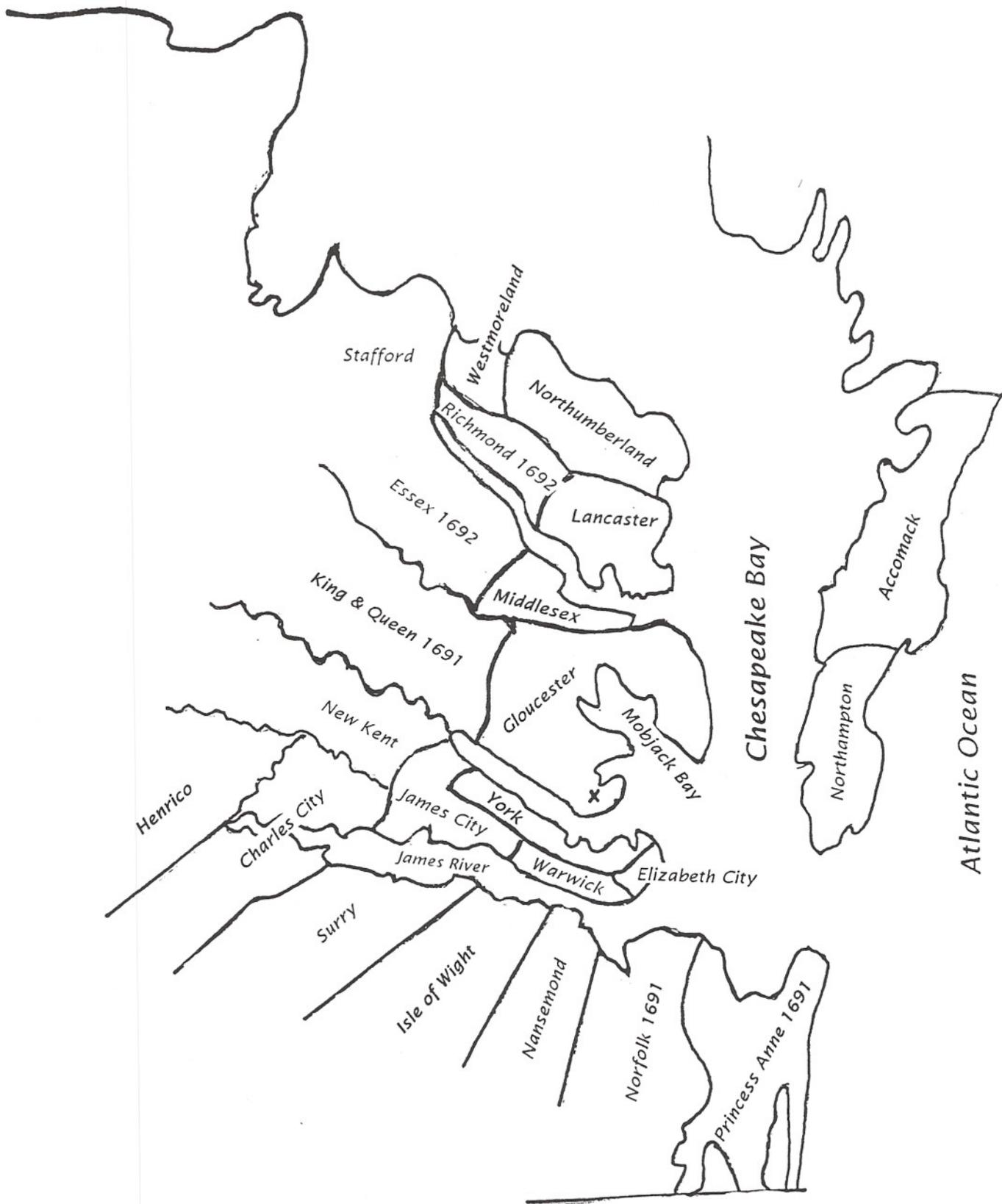
# COLONIAL VIRGINIA 1651-1660



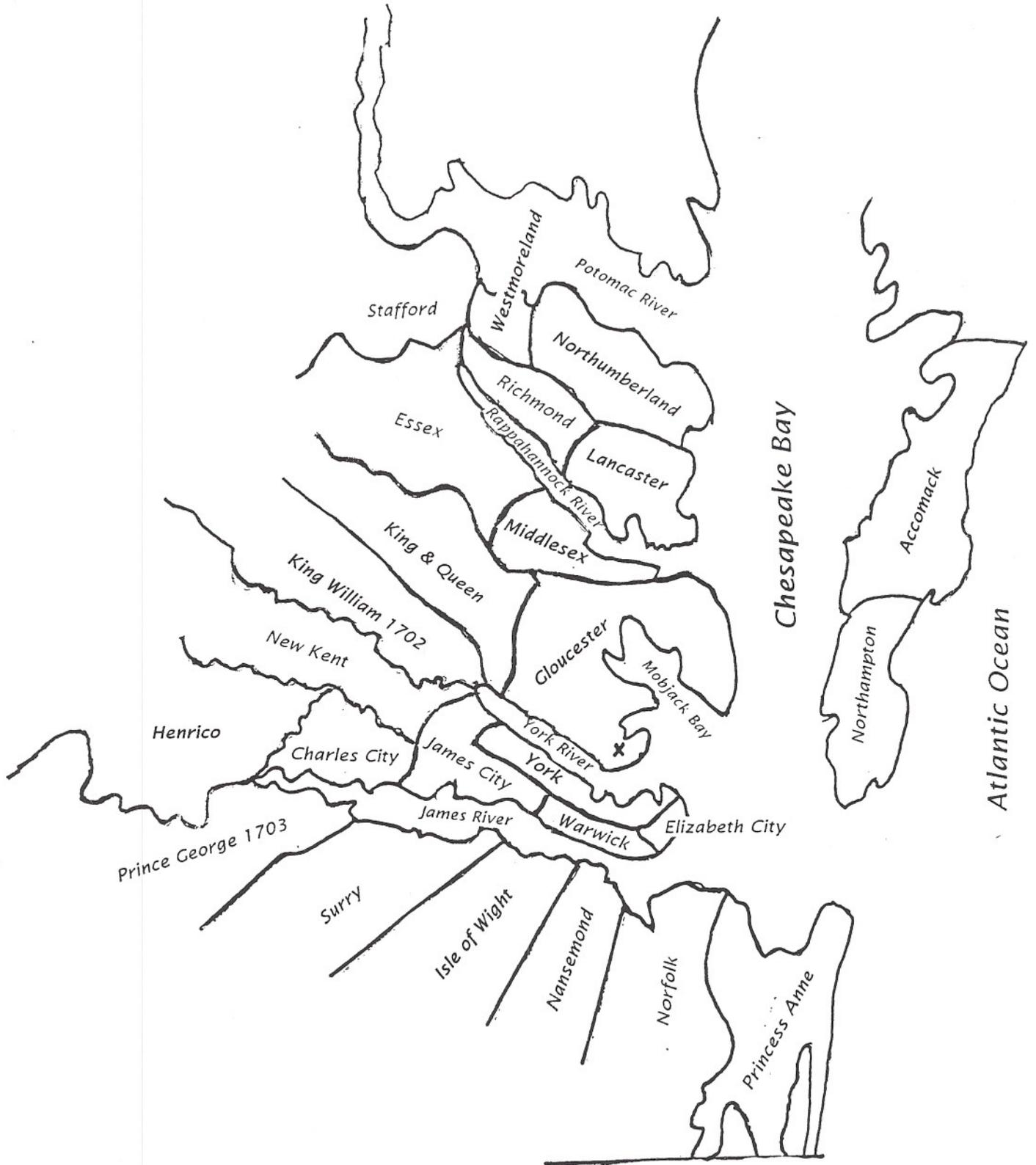
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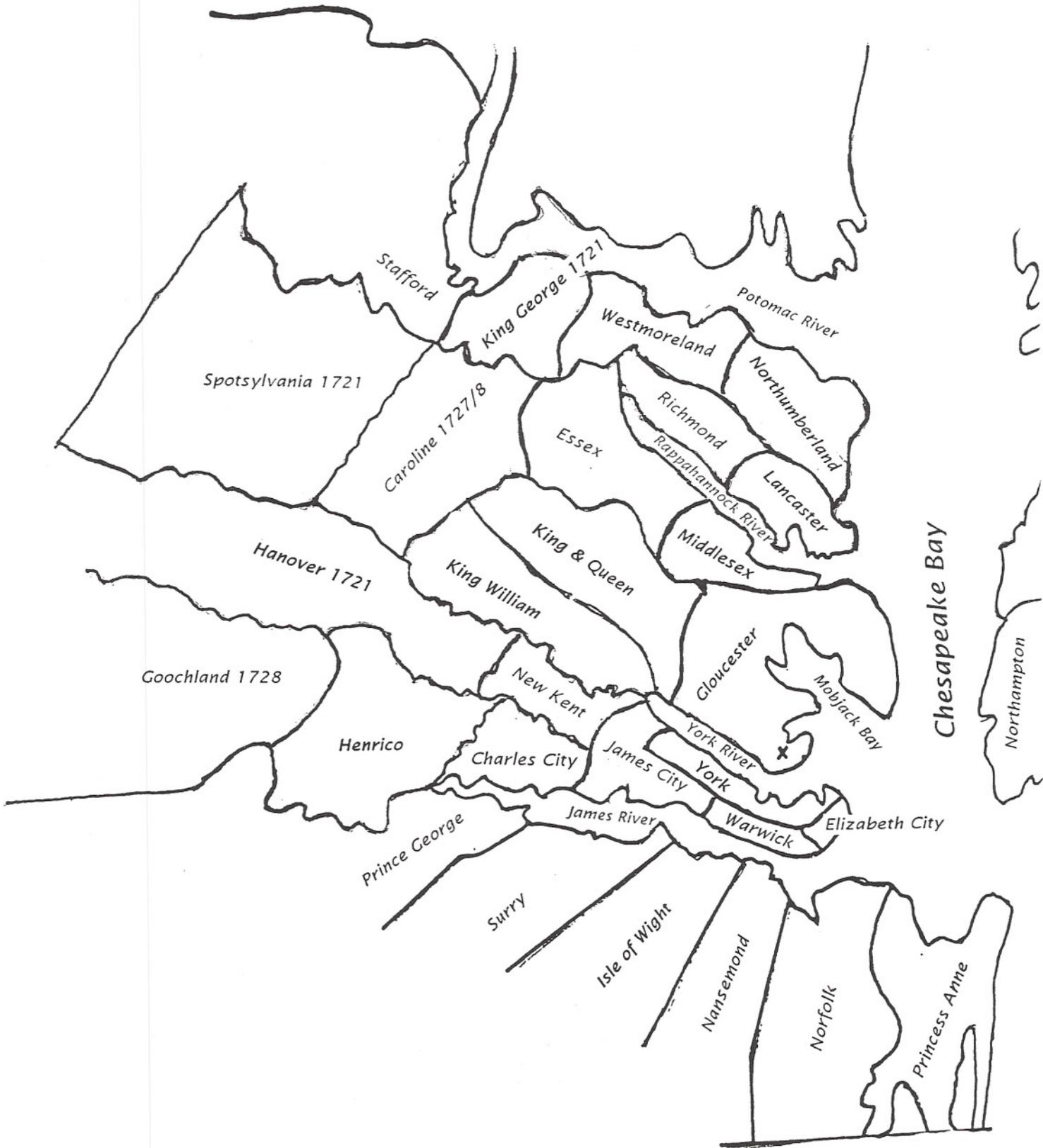
# COLONIAL VIRGINIA 1691-1700



# COLONIAL VIRGINIA 1701-1710

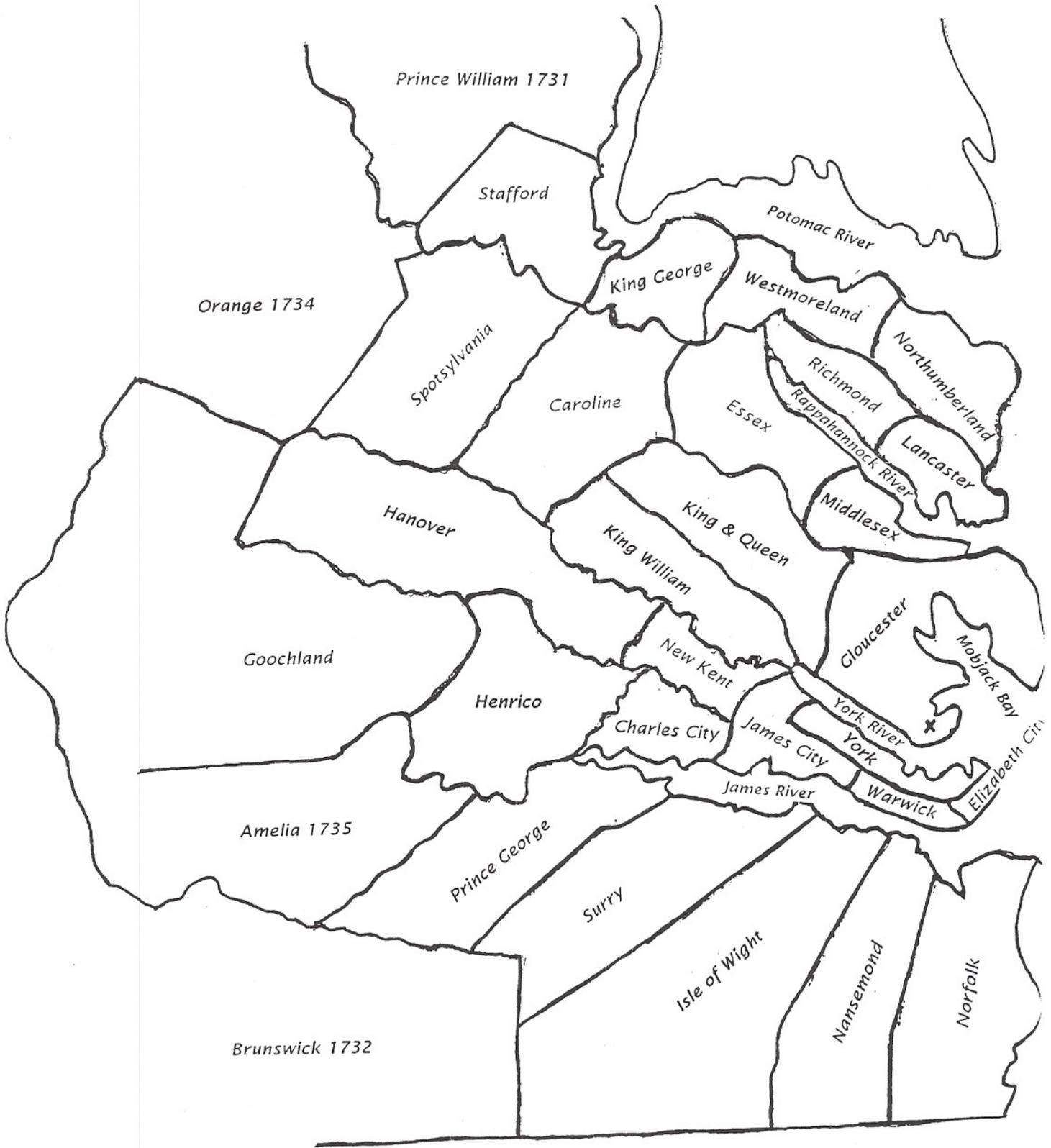


# COLONIAL VIRGINIA 1721-1730

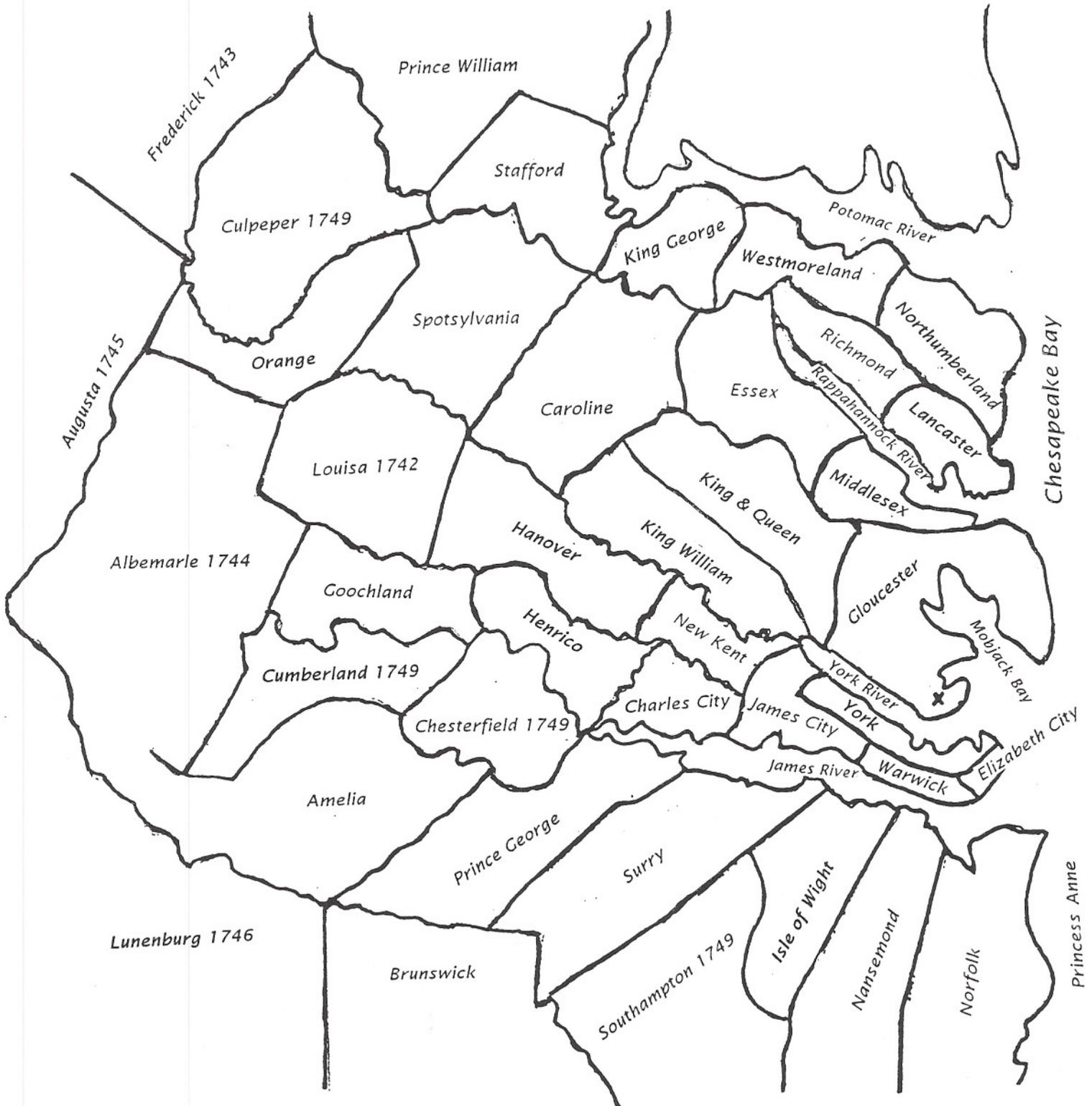


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# COLONIAL VIRGINIA 1731-1740

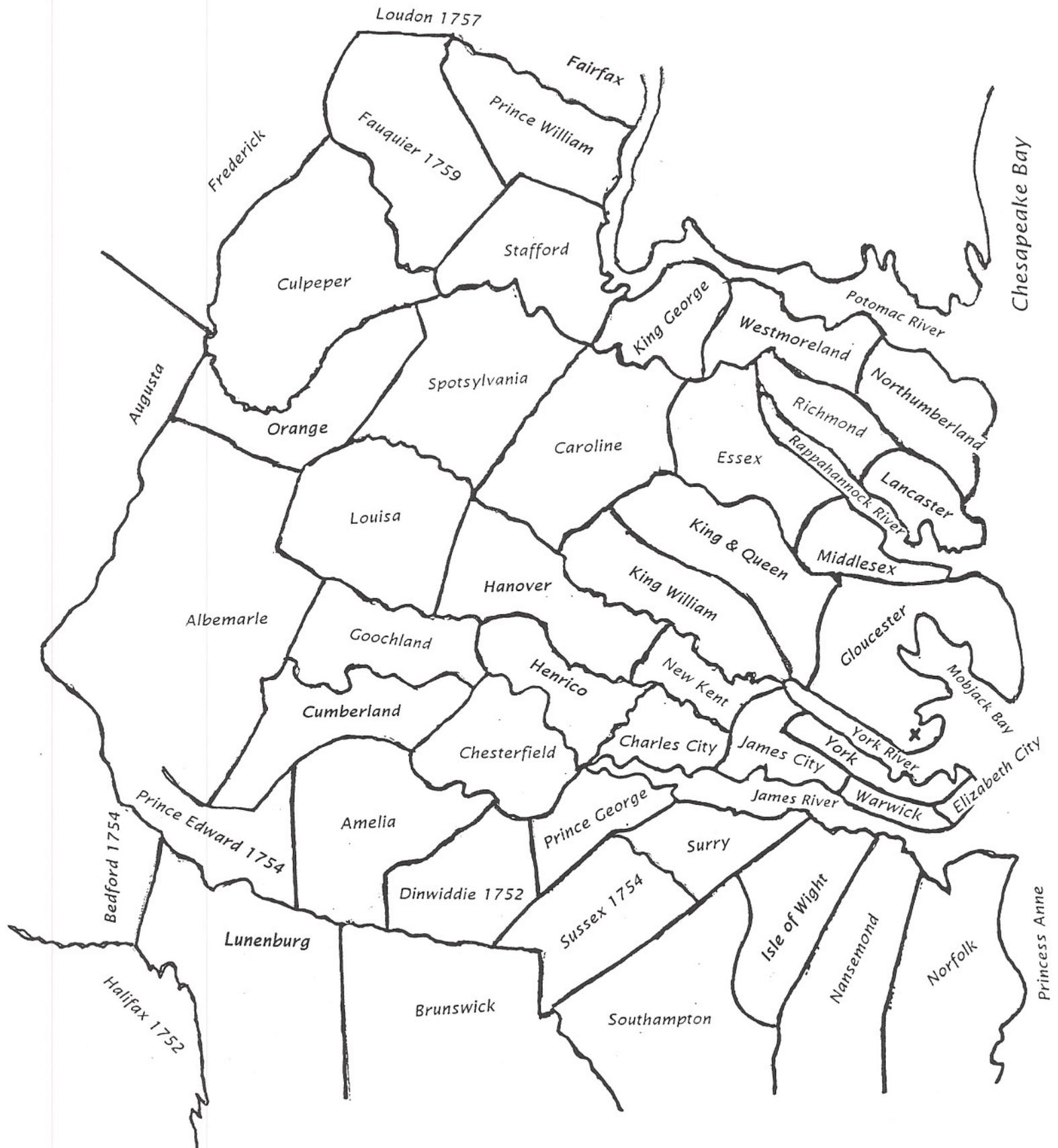


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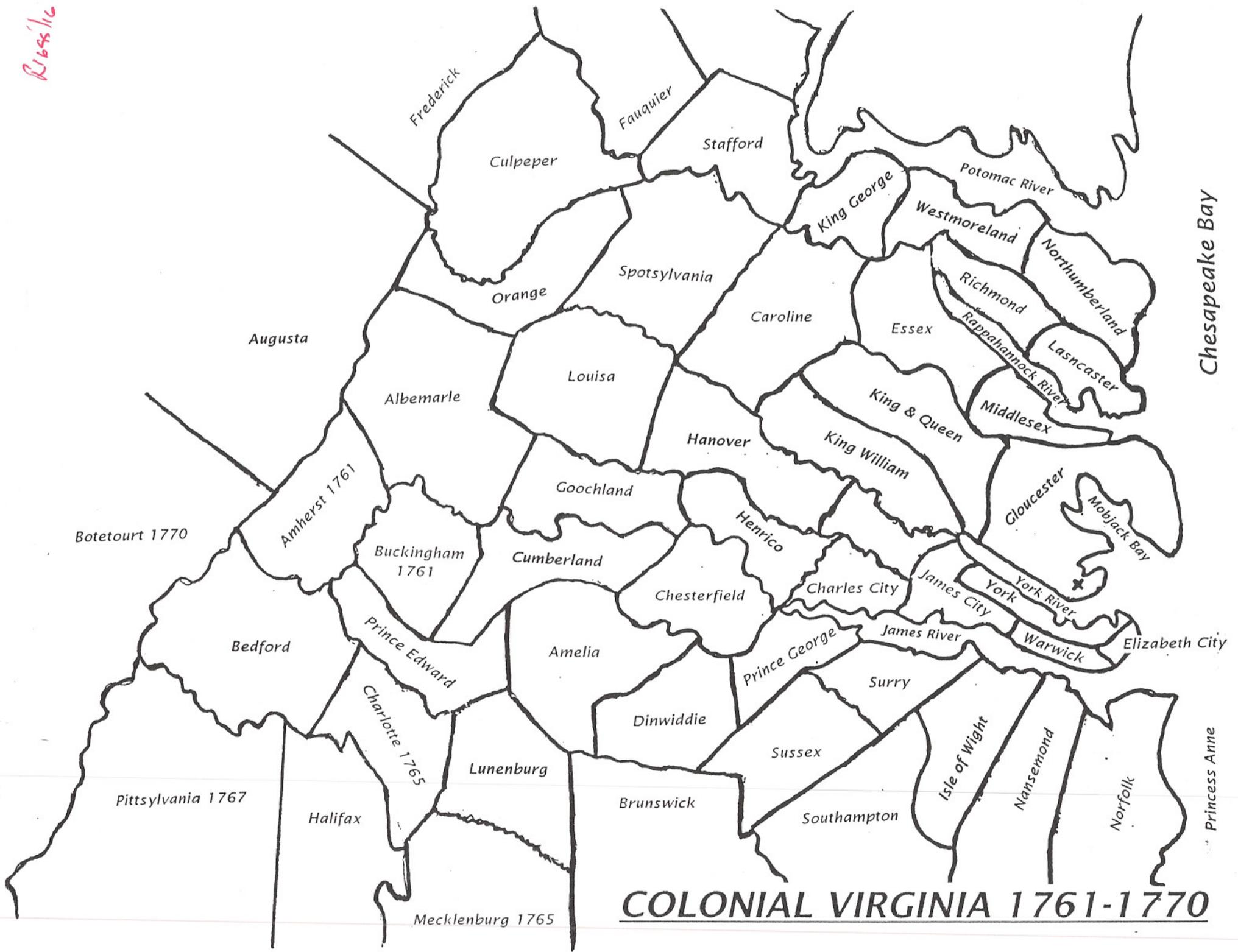


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# COLONIAL VIRGINIA 1751-1760



Russell



**COLONIAL VIRGINIA 1761-1770**