CONTENTS

17 ENGLAND ENTERS THE RACE FOR AMERICA / 163

England: Tangled up in Roses / Pushing off to the New World / Good Queen Bess / Sea Dogs Bark, and the Armada Has No Bite / The Pathfinders / Persuading the Queen

18 VIRGINIA LEADS THE WAY / 175

Roanoke—Founded and Lost / A Family Affair / James Pitches into the New World / Calamity Jamestown / Smith to the Rescue / A Royal Visit / The Starving Time / Jamestown’s “Lucky Strike” / The First American Legislature / King James Takes Over
19
GOING THEIR SEPARATE WAYS / 195
A Reforming of the Reformation / Leave or Cleave? / Put No Confidence in Princes / Going Dutch / The Saints and the Strangers Look Westward / A Leaky Launch / Slowly and Surly / Peril on the High Seas / New Horizons

20
CARVING A NEW WORLD SOCIETY / 211
The Mayflower Compact / Homecoming / Death’s Grim Harvest / An Indian Spring / Harvest Hurrah / All for One, and None for All / Plymouth Self-Government

21
NEW ENGLAND’S CITY SET UPON A HILL / 225
Charles in Charge / Laud Him or Leave Him / In a League of Their Own / No Kings Attached / On the Road / The Light of the World / A Bible Commonwealth / Massachusetts Body of Liberties / Reading, Writing, and Reformation / Education Goes Public / The Light Dims

22
ROGUE ISLAND: QUIBBLES AND QUIRKS / 243
Trouble in Paradise / The Wandering Williams / Separatism Gone Bonkers / Rejecting the Reformation / Rocky Rhode Island / Hearing Voices / A Prophetess Without Honor / The Colony Matures

23
SATAN COMES TO PARADISE / 259
Traitors in their Midst / Witchcraft and Weirdness / Trial by Error / The Clergy to the Rescue / Bewitched or Befuddled? / Setting the Record Straight

Used by Permission
NEW ENGLAND BURSTING AT THE SEAMS / 271

NEW NETHERLAND BECOMES NEW YORK / 289
The Low Lands Reach New Heights / Maintaining a Monopoly / The Middle Ages Comes to America / From Monopoly to Freedom / A Public Relations Nightmare / A Duke Gets His Own State / Regulations and Rebellion / The Two Jerseys Become One

QUAKING IN PENN’S WOODS / 305
Could We Just Get a Little Peace? / Differences make a Difference / Compromise Comes Calling / Paradise Lost / On the War Path / Finding Their Niche / Delaware Up For Grabs

A PLACE OF REFUGE: BUILDING MARYLAND / 321
Claiborne and Calvert / Planting the Plantation / Tussles and Toleration / Kicking out King and Calvert / The Last Proprietary Colony

VIRGINIA: CREATED IN ENGLAND’S IMAGE / 333
Virginia Gentlemen / Bishops Need Not Apply / A Head Start for Virginia / Berkeley Goes Berserkly / Taxes, and Plagues, and Indians, Oh My! / Berkeley Gets Egged by Bacon / Stamping out the Fires of Rebellion / Absolute Power Corrupts, Absolutely!

Used by Permission
For many years, England had eyed the New World with eager interest. In the fifteenth century, King Henry VII (1485–1509) of England learned of Columbus’s plan to reach the East by sailing across the Atlantic Ocean when the explorer’s brother, Bartholomew, appealed to Henry for money to make the voyage. At the time, the king had problems of his own.

For about thirty years, there had been a constant struggle between the House of Lancaster (whose emblem was a red rose) and the House of York (whose emblem was a white rose) in what was called the War of the Roses. Both of these royal families wanted to rule the country. The conflict finally ended in 1485 when Henry, who was from the House of Lancaster, defeated the forces of King Richard III of the House of York. As soon as Henry was crowned king in Westminster Abbey, he announced that he was starting a new royal line, the Tudors, which would unite the houses of Lancaster and York. From that moment on, Henry was dedicated to two goals: building up the royal treasury and making his throne secure for his successor.
Pushing off to the New World
Even though Henry VII had refused to support Christopher Columbus, he was interested in reports of the Admiral’s voyages. When John Cabot (1450–1498), an Italian map-maker and navigator, told the king that he could find a passage around the New World to the Indies, Henry was intrigued. Faced with the lure of eastern wealth, Henry decided that sea exploration might be a wise investment.

When Cabot set sail on May 20, 1497, he left without any financial support from Henry. True, the king had agreed to sponsor the voyage, but funding it was a different matter. Cabot left the English shores aboard one tiny vessel with a crew of only eighteen men, including his three sons.
The expedition was blessed with smooth sailing and reached the coast of North America on the morning of June 24, 1497. Like Columbus, Cabot believed that he had sailed to the Indies. He named the place where he landed Newfoundland and claimed it for England. After briefly exploring its coast, he returned to England in record-breaking time for a small sailing ship—only fifteen days. The entire trip had taken only eleven weeks.

Henry VII was pleased with the results of Cabot’s expedition, but he paid him a mere £10 for his efforts and sent him packing on a second expedition in 1498. This time, Cabot set out with five ships loaded with goods and instructions to start a trading post in Japan. One ship returned. Neither Cabot nor the four remaining ships were ever seen again.

When Henry VII died in 1509, he was succeeded...
by his second son, Henry VIII. Henry's attention was so focused on his series of wives and producing a male heir that he gave little notice to overseas exploration. After the death of Henry, his daughter Mary took the throne. During her reign, she focused on bringing England back to the Roman Catholic Church. She attempted to form an alliance with Catholic Spain by marrying Philip II (1556–1598), son of the Holy Roman Emperor Charles V. With these concerns, and a war with France occupying her time, overseas expeditions were far from her mind.

**Good Queen Bess**

It was under Henry's other daughter, Elizabeth I, that England entered the race for a new world empire. When Mary died in 1558, Elizabeth became queen. She was twenty-five years old. Elizabeth's reign was a long and prosperous one for England; it was a golden age for industry, art, literature, and exploration. Her nation, and in particular the members of her court, admired the strength of their shrewd female monarch, whom they called the Virgin Queen because she never married. She said of herself: "I know I have the body of a weak and feeble woman, but I have the heart ... of a king." The common people affectionately called her "Good Queen Bess.”

Elizabeth’s father and grandfather had left her a full treasury and a secure throne, and England was now strong enough to look beyond her shores. Under Elizabeth, England became the most powerful Protestant country in Europe.
Daring and venturesome men such as Sir Francis Drake (c. 1542–1596), John Hawkins (1532–1595), and Martin Frobisher (1535–1595) became known as the Elizabethan Sea Dogs. These men owned private fleets and regularly looted Spanish ships laden with gold and silver, faithfully giving Elizabeth a portion of the plunder. Drake even raided Spanish colonies in America, a leading source of Spanish wealth. On one expedition in 1572, his plunder included thirty tons of silver seized from a Spanish mule train on the Isthmus of Panama. The queen encouraged Drake to disrupt Spanish dominance of the South American coast. The Spanish ambassador protested that it was wicked for the queen to participate in such theft. Elizabeth angrily denied that she was accountable for the actions of the Sea Dogs. After all, they were not English naval officers, but private citizens!

Mirror, Mirror on the Wall
Queen Elizabeth surrounded herself with flattering courtiers, although she never married. She was an extremely vain woman, clothing herself in the most magnificent, extravagant garments. She dyed her hair red, plucked her eyebrows, and painted her face white. Despite all this pampering, she did not grow old gracefully. For one thing, her excessive indulgence in candies like comfits and marchpane eventually blackened her teeth. As she aged, she banned all mirrors from her court.