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**Jamestown Journey: Captain John
Smith I**

Lead: Perhaps no early leader was as instrumental in saving and prospering the Jamestown colony than mercenary, adventurer, explorer, and mapmaker Captain John Smith.

Intro.: *A Moment in Time* with Dan Roberts.

Content: Having no children of his own, John Smith liked to think that England's outposts in the new world were his offspring. He wrote, "I may call [the colonies] my children for

they have bin (sic) my wife, my hawks, my hounds, my cards, my dice and in total of my best content."

Smith's direct involvement in the colonial enterprise was, of course, at Jamestown. He was, however, highly qualified for the challenges of establishing a colony in the strange new world of North America. As a young man he fought in Europe with the Dutch against the Spanish as part of England's continuing low-grade conflict with its Iberian enemy.

Late in 1600 he hired himself out to the Austrians who were resisting Turkish incursions into the heart of Europe. A powerful physical specimen and a ferocious fighter, he

personally beheaded three Turkish officers but then was captured and sold as a slave. He mounted his escape and, through multiple adventures, made his way back to England by way of Russia, Poland, and Morocco.

Virginia seemed just the sort of adventure that would suit his temperament and skills and he signed on when the Virginia Company was recruiting settlers in 1606. During the voyage to Virginia some disagreement with other leaders put Smith on the losing side of an argument and he was accused of mutiny. Until the ships rounded Cape Henry in late April 1607 Smith was locked up. Only at that point, was it revealed that he was to become one of

**the seven member colony council.
Next time: diplomat and taskmaster.**

**At the University of Richmond,
this is Dan Roberts.**

Resources

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**Vaughan, Alden. *American Genesis: Captain John Smith
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<http://history.org/Foundation/journal/smith.cfm>

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