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**Jamestown Journey: Tidewater-
Frontier Tensions I**

Lead: As settlement moved away from the eastern seaboard, tensions began to develop in North American colonies, north and south, between the planters and the pioneers.

Intro.: Dan Roberts and *A Moment in Time with Jamestown - Journey of Democracy*, tracing the global advance of democratic ideals since the founding of Jamestown, Virginia in 1607.

Content: As Britain's American colonies began to fill up, the difference between east and west

became more pronounced. Settlers had made their way to the New World in various ways. Some paid their own way and arrived able to support themselves to one degree or another as they had in England. Other earned their passage and then had a period of service before they could build an independent life. Most of the best land in the tidewater was quickly bought up and became the basis for huge commercial estates. The arrival of African slaves made life even more risky for poor whites in the east. Wealthy planters no longer needed them.

Forced to sustain themselves, white settlers began to move west into the continental interior in search of cheap

land, a place to build their lives. Western New York, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia and the Carolinas all filled up with these so-called yeoman farmers who pried open the frontier to European settlement.

In Virginia the push west went up the river valleys, James, Roanoke, and Rappahannock. The early pioneers from the east were soon joined by Scottish, Irish, and German immigrants coming south down the Shenandoah Valley from Pennsylvania. These settlers grew or killed their own food and tended to be of Presbyterian or Baptist religious sentiment. The stage was set for conflict between the back country subsistence farmers and the

aristocratic east where fortunes were built on large scale trade.

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At the University of Richmond, this is Dan Roberts.

Resources

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