

## NEW COUNTRY — 1600–1610 (Headcounts & Timeline)

This document summarizes New World theaters (Jamestown, Hudson estuary, Quebec, Spanish Florida) with headcounts and a decade timeline to support ancestor’s-eye essays.

### AT-A-GLANCE HEADCOUNTS (FEEL FOR SCALE)

- Powhatan country (Tsenacommacah, coastal Virginia) — A paramount chiefdom of 30+ tribes under Wahunsenacawh (“Powhatan”). Estimated population (1607): ~14,000–21,000, clustered along tidal rivers in palisaded towns. This is the human landscape Jamestown enters.
- Jamestown & the James River (1607–1610) — May 1607: ~104 English colonists. 1608–1609: resupplies add more; disease, drought, and war squeeze food. Winter 1609–1610 (“Starving Time”): roughly 2 of 3 colonists die; ~60 survive to May 1610, when Sea Venture castaways (wrecked in 1609) arrive with relief. Tiny numbers, giant memory.
- Hudson River estuary (Lenape/Munsee homelands; no Dutch town yet) — 1609: Henry Hudson sounds the river; brief trading encounters; no European settlement. Indigenous population (broader lower-Hudson/Delaware-to-Esopus belt, c.1600): ~10,000, in dispersed villages/seasonal camps.
- St. Lawrence (Quebec founded 1608) — A few dozen French overwinter as a fortified trading/military outpost amidst powerful Native confederacies (Algonquin, Wendat/Innu neighbors). Smaller than Jamestown but better supplied.
- Spanish Florida (St. Augustine) — The old hand on this coast: a few hundred townspeople plus rotating garrison; soldierly, steady, never populous.

### TIMELINE — NEW WORLD (1600–1610)

- 1600–1606 — Powhatan paramountcy dominates the Tidewater; St. Augustine persists as a small Spanish hinge for the Bahama Channel. No English/Dutch towns yet in the mid-Atlantic.
- 1607 — Jamestown founded (~104 colonists). Jamestown is a palisade among nations, wholly dependent on riverine diplomacy and supply.
- 1608 — Champlain plants Quebec; a few dozen Frenchmen winter on the St. Lawrence, embedded in Native alliances.
- 1609 — Henry Hudson reaches the great estuary; trading, muskets fired, no settlement. In Virginia, drought intensifies pressures.
- 1609–1610 — Starving Time at Jamestown: mortality wipes out about two-thirds; ~60 survivors hold on until Sea Venture relief in May 1610.
- 1610 — Jamestown persists by a thread; St. Augustine continues at a few-hundred scale; Quebec stabilizes as a fur-trade hinge.

## HOW THE DECADE FELT ON THE GROUND

Jamestown (1607–1610): a village among nations — A raw palisade, brackish water, diplomacy with a much larger Powhatan world. The English are a fragile minority amid tens of thousands of Native people; in the “Starving Time,” survival itself becomes the story. Names are intimate: dozens alive, not hundreds.

Hudson estuary (1609): a ship passes through a living landscape — Canoes alongside, quick exchanges of metal for furs, a few musket shots—then the ship is gone. The “population center” is Indigenous—thousands across many villages—and zero Europeans stay.

Quebec (1608–1610): a small battery in a diplomatic sea — A storehouse and guns under Champlain; winter mortality a risk; alliances as vital as ships from France. A few dozen French rely on Native partners for survival and trade.

St. Augustine (c.1600–1610): small, soldierly, steady — An older town of hundreds, garrison rolls and mission circuits setting the rhythm; a quiet but durable Spanish hinge on the Atlantic.