

CHAPTER 1: THE BEGINNING

The time was right! The seeds had been planted. Now it was a time of harvest. Representative government had been established with jury trial, due process, and taxation by the consent. A "pioneer attitude" of democracy came about as the settlers realized the distance from the monarch and as each Virginian struggled together for survival.

The lack of ecclesiastical authority further aided in independent thinking as lay leadership took charge when there was no hierarchy to dictate church rules. These lay leaders called vestrymen secured ministers, hired them annually with a fixed salary, and provided for their needs with stock and a home.

As a result of Anglican authority and discipline being absent, Puritan influence was evident. Because of the hostile surroundings of nature and Indians, their belief in God often carried them into persecution. What was persecution after the experiences with the cold winters and the savage Indians!