

Laws from the General Assembly of Virginia

The following is a simplified version of some of the laws passed by the General Assembly in 1619.

All persons shall attend services on the Sabbath, both in the morning and afternoon. All those who bear arms shall bring their swords, powder and shot and every one who shall disobey this law shall forfeit three shillings each time for the use of the church unless lawfully excused. If a servant in this case shall willfully neglect his master's command, he shall suffer bodily punishment.

If any man is found to be an idler, though a freedman, it shall be lawful for that incorporation of plantation to which he belongs, to appoint him a master to serve for wages, until he shows apparent signs of amendment.

If anyone gambles at dice or cards, he shall lose all his winnings and both winners and losers shall forfeit ten shillings each, with one ten shilling to go to the person who reported him and the rest to charitable uses in the location where the fault is committed.

If anyone is found to be drunk, he shall be reprov'd privately by the Minister the first time, the second time he shall be reprov'd publicly, and the third time he will lie in bolts (leg irons) for 12 hours in the house of the Provost Marshall and will pay his fee.

Every man may trade with the Indians, except for the servants upon pain of whipping.

No man may sell or give any of the greater hoes to the Indians.

No man may go above twenty miles from his dwelling place, nor upon any voyage whatsoever shall be absent for seven days without first having made known to the Governor or commander of the place where he lives.

No Englishman may bring injury or oppression against the Indians whereby the present peace might be disturbed and ancient quarrels might be revived.