THE TIDEWATER Social Pyramid

** Profoundly Unequal **

The Planters

(10% of population -- men owned 50-75% of all productive assets)

The Yeomen Freeholders

(20-30% of the population)

Landless Majority

(includes tenant farmers)

&

Poor White Laborers and Servants

(60-70% of the male population)

African Slaves

Native Americans

(not considered part of the social pyramid)

THE GINI INDEX

**The Tidewater Gini ratio for wealth distribution was .60 to .75 (on a scale from 0-1.)

By the late 17th and early 18th centuries, it was even more unequal

In New England, the ratio was .40 to .60 in most New England towns

The Gini ratio is a measure of inequality in the distribution of family income. Note: According to the CIA's World Factbook, in 2019 the U.S. ranked 46th (41.5) in the world in terms of economic inequality, just above Djibouti (41.6). Slovakia is the most equal (23.2). Canada was 33.3 in 2017. * The CIA uses a 0-100 scale. Compare this with the amount of inequality in parts of colonial America. With just a relative handful of wealthy landowners in Virginia, inequality was bound to be extreme. Keep in mind that there are many forms of inequality; the Gini index is just one. Check out the World Factbook; it's fascinating and eye-opening.

PURITAN NEW ENGLAND

Puritan Ministers & Colony Leaders (wealthier, the Visible Saints)

Yeoman Farmers & Artisans

(majority of the population)

Servants and Tenants

(relatively few)

Slaves

(very few)

Native Americans

(not considered part of the social pyramid)