

A Chronology of the *Ark's* Voyage:

All dates are taken directly from Father Andrew White's Narrative except in the case of those marked with a "?" which are derived from inferences in the text, and those otherwise noted. The use of 1633/34 is standard in period since the New Year was not official until 25 March.

1633

Friday 22 November: The *Ark* and *Dove* depart Cowes and anchor off Yarmouth Castle.

Saturday 23 November: In the early hours of the morning, a French ship drags anchor, forcing the *Dove* to cut her anchor free and set sail to avoid collision. In order not to lose sight of the *Dove*, the *Ark* follows suit. At 10:00 AM, the ships sail past the Needles at the west end of the Isle of Wight, narrowly avoiding running aground.

Sunday 24 November: At about 9:00 AM, the *Ark* and *Dove* take their departure from Land's End and the Scilly Islands, sailing westward into the Atlantic. At 3:00 PM the same day, they encounter the *Dragon* of London, 600 tuns burthen bound for Angola. The *Ark* and the *Dragon* race for about an hour before the *Ark* is obliged to shorten sail so as not to leave the *Dove* behind

Monday/Tuesday 25/26 November: On the evening of the 25th, the wind increases to a gale and the *Dragon* returns to Plymouth. Richard Orchard aboard the *Dove* notifies the *Ark* that, in the event of danger, the crew of the *Dove* will display lights from the masthead. The master of the *Ark* is allowed to choose whether to return to England or continue and chooses to continue. During the night, distress lanterns are sighted in the *Dove's* rigging and no more is seen of her until Barbados. The passengers and crew assume she was lost in the storm. In the morning the storm abates.

Friday 29 November: After several days of variable winds, a gale arises from the SE.

Saturday/Sunday 30 November/1 December: The gale increases. At 10:00 PM, violent showers and winds force the crew of the *Ark* to shorten sail. The mainsail is torn in half, top to bottom and part of it is carried into the sea. The helm becomes unmanageable and the vessel is allowed to drift before the wind. Fortunately the storm abates the following morning. This is the last bad weather the *Ark* will encounter on the voyage.

December: The *Ark* sails south along the coast of Spain toward the Madeira Islands. Three ships are sighted which are feared to be Turkish corsairs, but do not attack, whereupon Father White supposes them to be merchants heading for the Canaries.

Wednesday/Thursday 25/26 December: In order to better celebrate Christmas, wine is passed out among the colonists. The following day, some 30 colonists fall ill of a fever supposedly brought on by excessive drinking. Twelve colonists die, including two Catholics, Nicholas Fairfax and James Barefote.

1633/34

Friday 3 January: The *Ark* makes landfall at Barbados in the Lesser Antilles after a passage of 42 days from England.

Mid-January?: The *Dove* arrives in Barbados, after seeking shelter in Plymouth harbor during the November gale. After the storm, the *Dove* sailed in company with the *Dragon* to Barbados.

Friday/Saturday 24/25 January: The *Ark* and the *Dove* depart Barbados and sail northward, reaching Martinique the evening of the 25th where they attempt to trade with the natives.

Sunday 26 January: The two ships sail past Guadalupe and Montserrat to Nevis where they spend a day.

Monday 27 January?: The *Ark* and the *Dove* arrive at St. Christopher's (now known as St. Kitts) where they spend ten days.

Thursday 6 February?: The *Ark* and *Dove* depart St. Christopher's.

Monday 24 February or Thursday 27 February: The *Ark* and the *Dove* arrive in the Chesapeake Bay, ending their sea voyage.¹ Time at sea, approximately 66-68 days, or a little over 2 months. Father White says their voyage took 7 weeks and two days-51 days sailing time. I have been unable to reconcile this time with this chronology. One possibility is that he is reckoning from the time the *Ark* took their departure, to the time they made landfall, ie: from the last sight of England to the first sight of the American mainland. This would mean that the time spent in the Channel and the time between sighting the mainland and actually entering the Bay would not be counted. Alternately, there may be an error in the copying of the manuscript.

Monday 3 March: The *Ark* and *Dove* depart Point Comfort and sail northward up the Bay.

March: After departing Point Comfort, the *Ark* and *Dove* sail up the Bay to the Potomac River, enter the river and sail up until they decide to encamp on Heron (later re-named St. Clement's) Island. Unfortunately Father White does not record any further dates apart from 25 March noted below. It is however extremely unlikely that their voyage up the Bay lasted for more than 2-3 days at most (if it had

¹ There is a disparity in dates here. Father White's narrative states that they arrived on 27 February, while *A Relation of Lord Baltimore's Plantation in Mary-Land*, published in 1634 gives the date of their arrival as 24 February. While the author of this article normally accepts Father White's dates and figures as being most reliable as he is the only primary source known, in this instance he is inclined to think that there is an error in the original manuscript and that the date is in fact 24 February. The reason for this is Father White's statement that the colonist stayed at Point Comfort eight or nine days and departed on 3 March. Obviously 27 February to 3 March is only five days. Since, in the manuscript, the numeral "27" appears, whereas 3 March is written out as "tertio Martii", it is probable that "24" was intended rather than "27". This would give a stay of eight days at Point Comfort.

taken them 2 weeks to beat their way up the Bay, Father White surely would have noted such foul weather). Therefore their date of arrival at St. Clement's Island is most likely no later than 5-6 March.

Tuesday 25 March: Father Andrew White celebrates a Mass of Thanksgiving on St. Clement's Island, possibly to celebrate the purchase of land from the Indians.

1634

Thursday 27 March: Governor Leonard Calvert makes an agreement with the Werowance of the Yaocomaco to purchase some 30 square miles of land on the east bank of the St George's (now St. Mary's) River. The site includes a village so that the English settlers have ready-made housing as well as crops already in the ground.² The presence of these, along with the Calvert's previous experience with colonization undoubtedly contributes significantly to the colony's success.

Late May 1634 The *Ark* departs Maryland for England, with a small supply of beaver pelts and letters to Lord Baltimore and other Maryland investors.

[by] August 30, The *Ark* arrives in London. (There is speculation as to whether a ship arriving in Maryland in early December with more "truck" [trade items] and other goods was also the *Ark*.) Port records on this date show trade goods being loaded in the *Ark of Maryland*.

29 August The *Dove* arrives in the Massachusetts Bay Colony with corn and other commodities to trade for salt cod and other goods. Richard Orchard, master of the *Dove*, disobeys orders to return immediately and stays until October 1634.

November Again disobeying orders, Orchard stops in Point Comfort in Virginia. Leonard Calvert learns of the *Dove's* arrival and goes to Virginia. Orchard refuses to leave Virginia, claiming that the ship needs repairs and demanding payment of wages. (It was the custom to pay mariners upon the completion of a voyage, although it was unusual for a trading voyage to last much more than a year.) Almost all of the crew deserts the *Dove*. After a lengthy delay, mariners are finally found to sail the *Dove* back to St. Mary's.

1635

August After more difficulty procuring repairs and finding mariners, the Councilors finally send the *Dove* back to England loaded with "1000 wt. of beaver and other skins, and a great quantity of wainscot timber." However, the *Dove* is lost at sea, never arriving in England. The original crew returns to England on other vessels and eventually sue Lord Baltimore for their wages. Their testimony suggests that the ship was badly damaged by shipworms and not fit for an ocean voyage. The loss of the ship tends to bear them out and they win their suit.

² From the *Calvert Papers*, cited by Silas D. Hurry.

Bibliography:

White, Father Andrew, Lawatsch-Boomgaarden, Barbara, trans. *Voyage to Maryland*, Wauconda, Bolchazy-Carducci Publishers, 1995.