

P. R. O. Colonial Papers. in these partes and because wee doe very much approve of all such worthie intensions and are desirous to give good encouragement to their proceedings therein beeing for the releefe and comfort of those our subjects and enlargement of our dominions These are to licence and authorize the said William Clayborne his associates and Company freely without interruption from time to time to trade and traffique for corne fures or any other comodities whatsoever with their shippes men boates and merchaundize in all seas, coasts, rivers, creekes, harbours lands and territories in neere or about these partes of America for which there is not allready a patent graunted to others for sole trade and to that effect wee require and command you and every one of you and particularly our trusty and welbeloved Sir Iohn Harvey Knight Governor and the rest of our councell of and for our Colonie of Virginia to permitt and suffer him and them with their said shippes boates merchaundizes catttell marriners serveaunts and such as shall willinglie accompany or bee employed by them from time to time freely to repaire and trade to and agen in all the aforesaid partes and places as they shall thinke fitt and their occasions shall require, without any stopp, arrest, search hindrance or molestation whatsoever as you and every of you will answer the contrary at your perrills giveing and by these presents graunting unto the said William Claybourne full power to direct and governe correct and punnish such of our subjects as shall be under his command in his voyages and discoveries and for his soe doing these presents shall be a sufficient warrant. Given at our Mannor of East Greenwich the 16th day of May in the seaventh year of our Raigne 1631.

To our trustie and welbeloved our Governor and Councell of Virginia and to all our Lieutenants of Provinces and Countries in America Governors and others having any charge of Colonies of any of our subjects and to all Captaines and Masters of Shippes and generally to all our subjects whatsoever whome these presents doe or may concerne.

William Claiborne enters upon the Isle of Kent unplanted by any man. But possessed by the Natives of that Country with about 100 men and there contracted with the natives and bought their right to hould of the Crowne of England to him and his Company and their heires and by force or virtue thereof William Claiborne and his Company stood seized of the said Island about 3 yeares after his Majesty's Graunts a