

Bacon, Nathaniel. b. 1593; d. 1660. English Puritan lawyer, member of Parliament (1645-60), and master of requests under Oliver Cromwell and Richard Cromwell. He was the author of a *Historical Discourse of the Uniformity of the Government of England* (1647-51).

Bacon, Nathaniel. b. at Friston Hall, Suffolk, England, Jan. 2, 1647; d. in Gloucester County, Va., in October, 1676. American colonial leader, champion of reform in early Virginia, and head of "Bacon's Rebellion" (1676). Educated at Cambridge University and Gray's Inn, he emigrated to Virginia, settling at Curl's Neck on the James River. Although a member of the governor's council, his sympathies were with the social underlings of the colony who labored under inequalities then existing in the colonial laws. Widespread dissatisfaction with Governor John Berkeley's Indian policy caused Bacon to lead an expedition against the Pamunkey Indians; he also compelled Berkeley to call a new assembly for the enacting of reform measures. Lacking a commission from Berkeley authorizing his raids in Indian territory, Bacon, together with some of his followers, was arrested upon his return to Jamestown. He was pardoned and restored to his seat on the council; but fearing for his personal safety, he fled Jamestown, gathered his aroused followers, and forced Berkeley to give him a commission for operations against the Indians. Before Bacon's expedition could get under way, he was proclaimed a rebel by Berkeley. Bacon counterattacked with the capture and burning of Jamestown. He died before he could institute his popular reforms, and with his death the insurrection he led disintegrated.