



VIRGINIA

A COMMONWEALTH COMES OF AGE

AN ILLUSTRATED HISTORY

ABOUT THE BOOK

“Heaven and Earth never agreed better to frame a place for man’s habitation,” wrote Captain John Smith about that portion of the New World he’d staked out along the James River. Hardened soldier of fortune that he was, even Smith could not help but be won over by the beauty of the land that would become known as Virginia. And such beauty went deeper than the surface—the land would prove generous in agricultural yields. Such a land would also nurture leaders and Renaissance men the likes of Thomas Jefferson throughout the nation’s formative years.

Tried and tested by the devastation of war, Virginia’s indomitable spirit of enterprise would rebuild and empower its economy through diversification. Humming with railways, machine works, and mills, Virginia rallied to the demands of the nation’s growing industrial appetite. Today, the most advanced finance and high-tech industries thrive in Virginia and developments in fields such as fiber optics, satellite communications, and robotics are taking place within her borders. A healthy business climate, fostered by a plentiful work force, highly efficient transportation network, and favorable tax system, has allowed Virginia’s economy to blossom.

Virginia: A Commonwealth Comes of Age chronicles the state’s reemergence as a business and industrial giant, affirming the boons of maturity. Journalist and longtime resident Lisa Antonelli Bacon brilliantly traces patterns of growth in the state. She fills in details of character and policy with an informed and energetic wit. Features highlighting Virginians such as Maggie Lena Walker and Collis P. Huntington, who exemplify the state’s entrepreneurial genius, further enrich the text.

Nearly 600 images, both vintage black and white and vibrant color, richly ornament this treasure-house of analysis and anecdote. An exquisite display of historical and contemporary renderings will heighten the reader’s appreciation for Virginia’s substantial economic heritage.

Biographies of many Virginia businesses and organizations are highlighted in a special chapter titled “Chronicles of Leadership.” This vastly informative section recounts the histories of companies and organizations that have successfully invested in Virginia. Finally, an illustrated timeline of significant events further enhances and supplements the narrative.

As Virginia heralded the enlightenment of this nation’s infancy, so she continues to refuel the flame of her progress. The resourcefulness and independence characteristically demonstrated by Virginians is celebrated throughout *Virginia: A Commonwealth Comes of Age*—a success story to inspire and challenge future generations.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Lisa Antonelli Bacon is a freelance writer living in Richmond. While living in Los Angeles in 1981, she worked for Professional Writers Network, researching and writing stories for foreign markets. After returning to her hometown of Richmond, she worked on the staffs of *Virginia Business* magazine and *STYLE Weekly*. She has been freelancing for newspapers and magazines since 1999. Her work appears frequently in the *New York Times*, as well as in national and international magazines, including *Interior Design* and *CNN Traveller*.

Edith Jeter, photo researcher, is a native and lifelong resident of Richmond, Virginia. She graduated from Virginia Commonwealth University in 1983 with a bachelor’s degree in history and a minor in American studies. In the mid-’80s she was curator of prints and photographs at the Valentine Museum. She has also served as the archivist for the International Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention.