



ORDER IN THE COURT!

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COLONIAL GOVERNMENT

- Each colony had its own governor, legislature and court system
- Elections held & government system elected
- Free, white, male, property owners allowed to vote
- Legislators levied taxes, made laws and debated current issues
- Everything had to be approved by King and Parliament
- Most elected officials were gentry



COLONIAL GOVERNMENT

- New England colonies town meetings were held and officials were elected
- Other colonies officials were appointed
- Local court systems, sheriffs and constables enforced the law



PUNISHABLE CRIMES

- Swearing
- Gossiping
- Burglary
- Debtors
- Runaway slaves
- Getting drunk
- Not attending church services
- Theft



TYPES OF PUNISHMENTS



- Pillory
- Stocks
- “Ear marking”
- Ducking stool
- Branding
- Jail
- Whipping
- Public executions

PUBLIC GAOL IN WILLIAMSBURG

- Virginia's general assembly ordered a "substancial brick prison" built
- Peter Pelham most famous gaoler
- Debtors, runaway slaves – and occasionally the mentally ill
- During the Revolution, tories, spies, military prisoners, deserters, and traitors
- Most occupants were waiting trial to be branded, whipped or hanged





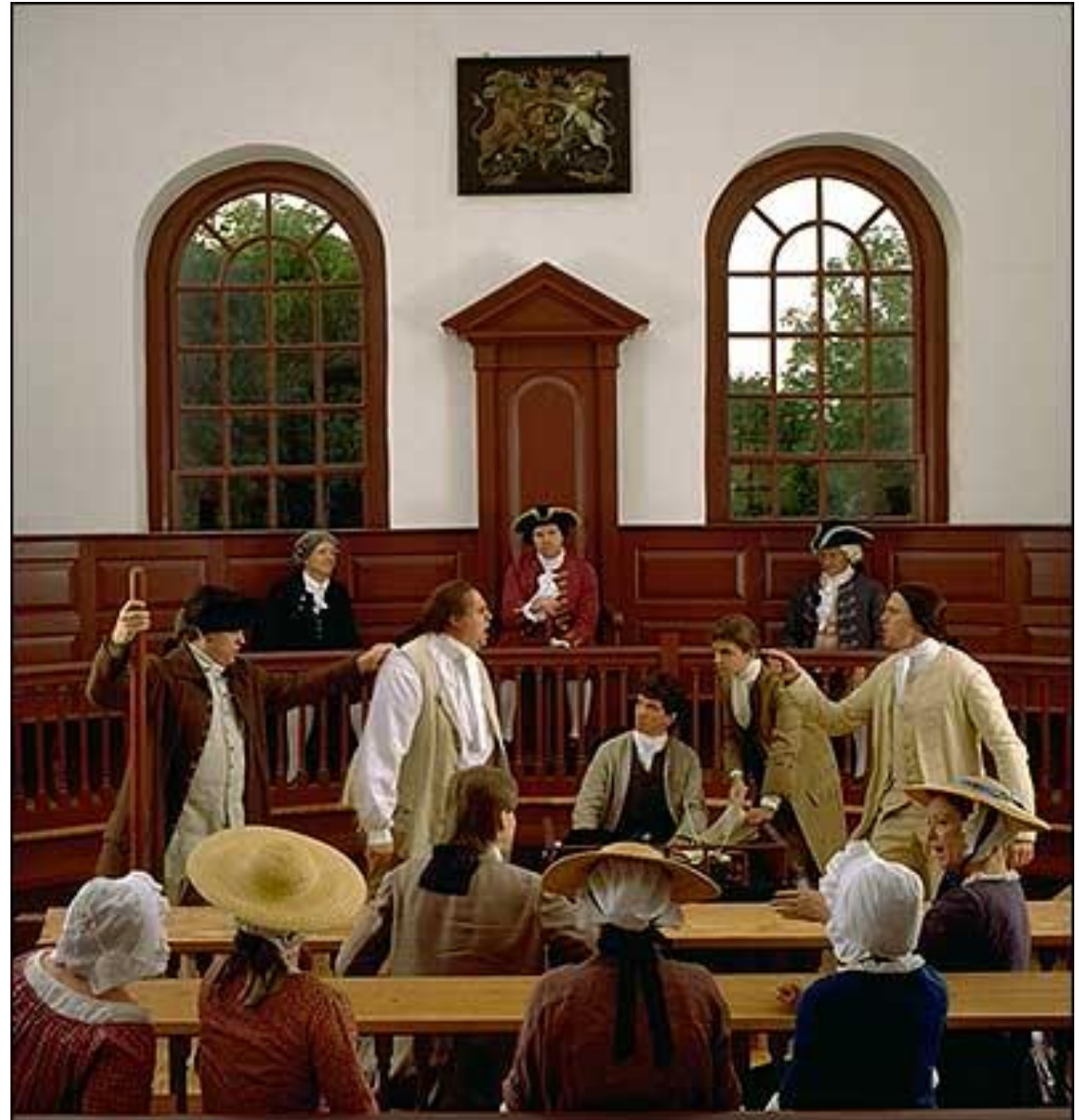
PETER PELHAM-FAMOUS GAOLER

- Gaol keeper from 1771-1779
- Bruton Parish Church organist
- Taught young ladies to play the harpsichord and spinet
- He and wife Ann had 14 children
- 5 grew up in gaol and one was born there



THE WILLIAMSBURG COURTHOUSE

- Benjamin Waller read the Declaration of Independence from the steps
- The Treaty of Paris was announced here
- Central to town and center of community
- Jurors and Chief Magistrate sat behind the bar





COURT TRIALS AT THE CAPITOL



BLACKBEARD'S
CREW
MARCH 1719

