**Bacon’s Rebellion Poem**

In the town of Jamestown, just some three hundred years ago, A kind old governor by the name of Berkeley kept the colonists in tow.

His wife’s cousin named Bacon was quite the wayward soul, A troublemaker and a swindler, growing up was for him his father’s goal.

The father pleaded with Berkeley, “Please take him off my hands,” The Governor heeded and gave young Bacon some land.

Virginia land and crops were good, but sales were bad, And Jamestown’s colonists soon grew sad.

As the colonists began to see the Indians regularly, They said to themselves, “Perhaps those Indians are causing our malady.”

Then, in 1675, some Indians came too close and went too far in, Raiding the home of a Virginia gentleman.

The plot thickened when the gentlemen’s retaliation was tried, Simply because the Virginia gentlemen raided the wrong tribe.

Berkeley ordered a meeting to bring the matter to a close; Instead, many chiefs died, and the excitement rose.

Thus, while Berkeley pleaded with his colonists not to act, Many, like his troublesome cousin Bacon, thought it part of their colonial pact.

“Kill the Indians, enemies of the land,” they yelled; Meanwhile, Berkeley hoped Bacon would not start setting off bells.

Alas, Bacon’s troublesome nature proved most powerful, And he chose to ignore the pleas of his cousin the governor.

That Bacon, he rode straight into the fire, And seized him some Indians he felt had conspired.

Well Berkeley did scream with all of his height, and Bacon did bellow with all of his might, And all the Virginia rebels, well, they just joined in the fight.

As was in his nature, Berkeley sought a compromise Between his colonists and the Indians he thought wise.

He cleared the Indians out of powder and ammunition, And started the Long Assembly, hoping it would be a tradition.

Indians Wars resulted, though Berkeley had done what he could, And his attempts to regulate trade only upset people with goods.

Good old cousin Bacon was one of these angered folks, And he joined together with a couple other blokes.

The blokes elected him “General” of their little assembly. And they called themselves Indian Fighters, ready to attack many.

Bacon acted quickly and drove some Indians off their land, Berkeley responded, tired of this cousin who was meant to act a man.

Though Berkeley’s good nature thought Bacon wrong, Many others believed his case against the Indians firm and strong.

So firm did those others see his position, They elected him to the House of Burgesses to pursue his mission.

Still an outlaw when he arrived to his first meeting, Bacon was captures on the spot, But because he was the governor’s cousin, the capture was not long and hot.

Bacon apologized and was pardoned in seconds, Which proved a mistake because he continued to heckle.

He moved out of that meeting room and gathered his men, And surrounded the place, screaming, “Hey, next of kin!”

“I was what I want, and I want it right now,” But Berkeley refused: “I’d rather grant it to my cow.”

Bacon asked again, threatening loudly to give Berkeley the boot, And Berkeley called his bluff, saying, “Here shoot me before God, fair mark shoot.”

Bacon refused, still demanding his Burgesses’s position and his cut, He wanted to lead forces against the Indians without the governor’s if, and, or but.

Bringing his leadership to shambles, Berkeley finally said yes, And told Bacon he could lead forces against the Indians with the best of the best.

So Bacon became leader of the Rebellion against the Indians, And not only that, but he also ran Berkeley out of Jamestown.

Bacon led Jamestown, though not well, and had infinite support, And even issues his “Declaration of the People” for continued rapport.

Bacon’s declaration denounced Berkeley as corrupt, And Berkeley’s men quickly recaptured Jamestown in a method quite abrupt.

Bacon became so enraged and so desiring of power, He burned Jamestown to the ground, thinking Berkeley would cower.

Instead, it was Bacon who lost his fortune and fame, In fact, the lice took his life not long after he lost the game.

Berkeley quickly regained full control of Jamestown, And hanged the rebels who then followed Bacon to the ground.

Thus our story begins and ends, In the hands of two power-hungry cousins.