outpost and a plantation where corn was grown to help fill the larder at Jamestown, in some part by our Thomas and Mary Bouldinge. To supplement the fort at Point Comfort, De La Warr had two more built on either side of a small stream or river, Fort Henry and Fort Charles. This river De La Warr called the Southampton (Hampton), the name that came to be applied, too, to the wide waters into which it flowed, Hampton Roads. The forts were intended both as strongholds against the Indians and as a rest stop, or acclimation point, for the incoming settlers "that the weariness of the sea may be refreshed in this **pleaseinge parte of the countree.**"

The settlement grew slowly as the report of John Rolfe in 1616 shows: **"At Keqoughtan, being not farr from the mouth of the river, thirty-seven miles below James Towne on the same side, are twenty persons whereof eleven are Farmors. All these also mayntayne themselves as the former. Captain George Webb, Commander, Mr. William Mays Mynister there."**

At this time it ranked fifth in size of the then existing six Virginia settlements. Only Dale's Gift on the Eastern shore was smaller. The largest at the time was Bermuda Hundred with its 119 persons. Jamestown was second with fifty. Although small, it can be assumed that since 1611, it was changing from mainly a military post, to a family occupied settlement.

Over the next five years there was extensive growth in the area including the assignment of 100 acres of land for a glebe. While other settlements suffered greatly from Indian attacks during the 1620's, Elizabeth City had very little trouble, thanks in part to the fine defensive measures that were taken by the garrison there as well as the attitude which prevailed between the settlers and the Indians. While not immune from sporadic attacks, the area came to know peace and freedom and population increases were noticed in the census of 1624-1625.

If one were to look at a map of that section of Virginia today, you would see the city of Newport News. Throughout the area it is common to see the names of "Hampton" and "Southampton" designating neighborhoods, streets, parks and schools. I even noticed one of the main thoroughfares in the city was named "Kecoughtan."

John Bouldin