

## What is the Meaning of Castle Duties?



bateau

A bateau, or flat-bottomed boat was used to navigate the rivers and creeks in Virginia. Colonists who owned ships and resided in the colony were exempted from paying castle duties in 1656. Three years later, that changed drastically. From then on, the merchants, ship owners and masters were ordered that they were to pay a duty upon any cargo not destined for the English dominions in Europe. For each hogshead of tobacco they paid a duty of ten shillings in the form of coin, bills of exchange, or commodities at an advance of twenty-five per cent on the original cost. All those persons transporting their cargoes in bottoms, whether natives or residents, were relieved from this tax. Source: Hening's Statutes, p. 537.