

Albemarle Colony Natives Believed Youthful, Haunted By Early Death

(Fifth of a Series)
By Dr. Tom Parramore
Early Albemarle, seeded of the Carolina colony—what kind of a place was it? Three hundred years ago it was being ballyhooed in pamphlet literature in England as "one of the most beautiful countries in the world." It was hailed in Paris and London as superior even to Virginia in "Health, Fertility, and Mildness of Winters."
In recent decades, early Albemarle was dubbed by novelist Inglis Fletcher as "Raleigh's Eden". A land, sings novelist Don Tracy still more recently, of "game in abundance, waters full of fish, skies clouded with pigeons, marshes teeming with ducks."
But the reality of

"Raleigh's Eden" seems far different in researchers presently being conducted for the Alliance for Progress. What the "Heritage project" historians are finding is that the Albemarle colony appears to have been closer to philosopher Thomas Hobbes's description of what life would be like in a state of nature. It would be, he wrote, "solitary, poor, nasty, brutish and short."
If those words seem harsh when applied to the Albemarle colony of the seventeenth and early eighteenth centuries, consider the likelihood of a long life in old Albemarle. Mortality rates are difficult to compile, but there is evidence that most parents died leaving small children. Probably less than one

native of the colony in four lived to his or her twenty-sixth birthday. A typical family included children from several previous marriages. The population must therefore have been a youthful one haunted by the spectre of early death.
The existing early records leave little doubt as to why the life of the Albemarle settler was likely to be brief and insecure. It was because of poor diet and raging diseases. In the case of women, hard labor and the rigors of frequent pregnancy and births were added hazards. Few families enjoyed the luxury of a slave or indentured servant and the shortage of labor was chronically acute. In the first half-century of the Albemarle colony, say 1660 to 1710, disease and

inadequate diets carried off infants and adult as demoralizing rates.
Winter was a harsh time in the Albemarle—whatever might be side of the mildness of southern winters—because cattle and hogs had to be allowed to forage for themselves in woods and swamps. This meant the want of milk and fresh meat for months at a time. The cattle might do well enough

by foraging on their own but there was usually no feed to enable the farmer to keep his herd close to home.
If winter was a difficult time, early Albemarle summers were misery compounded. Food might be plenty but if spoiled quickly. Practically every settler of whatever race or age could expect a seige of malaria before summer's end and these repeated attacks kept

constitutions perennially weak. And weak bodies were all the more susceptible to other serious illness such as smallpox, yellow fever and pneumonia.
A striking clue to the primitive quality of life in early Albemarle was the prevalence there of the malarial known as yaws. Where it still flourishes today, yaws is known as a disease "of the end of the

road." It is found in the most inaccessible bush country of Africa and the remote parts of the Caribbean Island and Far Eastern tribal backlands. In other words, the very existence of yaws in a society is proof that sanitation and hygiene are virtually unknown. It bespeaks wholesale ill-health and squalid living conditions. So it is significant that Albemarle court records show yaws infesting both white and black, poor and well-to-do among the early colonists.
The emerging picture of early Albemarle is one of a society all but arrested in its development by physical weakness and personal insecurity. As a far-flung frontier of the society growing up around Chesapeake Bay, it was fated to flounder in confusion while its nearest

neighbors— Virginia, Maryland, and South Carolina—forged ahead.
The question, then, becomes that a deciding how and why it was that Albemarle survived at all. Why did not the problems mentioned above, together with Indian attack, hurricane, civil conflict and other plagues break the spirit of the Albemarle remnant and send it fleeing back to safer places. In the case of the groups that settled the lower Cape Fear in the 1660's, this is just what happened. But somehow the Albemarle group held on in spite of everything and become the foundation-stone of a thriving colony by the mid-eighteenth. Just how this happened will be the focus of further investigations sponsored by Alliance for Progress in its ongoing projects.

Poor Management Is Charged

CONTINUED FROM 3-B

Operation Overcharge is an organization formed by the Chambers of Commerce of Northeastern North Carolina to fight Veeco on its exorbitant electric rates. The study, paid for by customers as part of Veeco's general operating expense, was conducted by Hill & Knowlton, a New York public relations firm. Among other things, it found:

1. Because of its heavy reliance on oil and nuclear power, Veeco has attracted a concentrated share of the national debate on these issues.
2. Members of the news media complained of conflicting information and information slanted to suit the company.
3. Veeco executives too often blamed problems on politicians or regulatory bodies and never admitted the company made a mistake.

4. The utility has not demonstrated enough concern for the risks the public perceives in connection with nuclear power.
5. Veeco's public affairs staff has been too crisis-oriented while devoting too little time to a positive communications program.
"That study cost a lot of money and should not have been paid for by customers, but it hit the nail on the head," Little said.

explained. "The sooner we get it the better," he claimed.
Little said Veeco could improve its image most by deciding to sell its system in Northeastern North Carolina to another power supplier and "to get back up to Virginia and use the funds to try to get things straight up there."

"Veeco is in a lot of trouble." "Its poor management and imprudence has brought the rate levels up to a point that they are a disgrace," he said. "They can't get them back down, either." "At first they said rates would moderate by early 1980," he said. "Then they said 1981. Now they're saying 1984." "They're up there and they don't know how to get them down and Northeastern North Carolina is looking for another power supplier," he

Historic Tour Of Halifax

CONTINUED FROM 6-B
Halifax State Historic Site at Halifax. This was the early river port town of Roanoke Valley. Here on April 12, 1776, North Carolina's Fourth Provincial Congress unanimously adopted a document later called the "Halifax Resolves".

which was the first official action by an entire colony recommending independence from England.
The gambrel roof Owens House is the oldest building in the complex, dating circa 1760. The Sally-Billy House is an elegant example of a Federal style plantation constructed between the 1790's and the 1820's. There are several other buildings of historical interest, and a visitor center. Hours are:


Tuesday through Saturday, 9:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.; Sunday, 1:00 to 5:00 P.M. No admission charge.
Historic Murfreesboro is a short distance from Halifax. The William Rea Store, built in 1790, is the oldest commercial brick structure in North Carolina. The building is restored and houses a museum. Richard Jordan Gatling, inventor of the Gatling gun, was born nearby, and the museum contains a Gatling gun and a room with woodwork from the Gatling plantation. Special tours with informed guides may be arranged for groups by writing: Murfreesboro Historical Association, Post Office Box 3, Murfreesboro, North Carolina 27855.

CARD OF THANKS
I would like to extend a personal thank you to the Sheriffs Dept., Edenton-Chowan Rescue Squad, Wildlife agents and all of the people involved in the search for my boat on Monday morning of April 14th. Aleta and I greatly appreciate you rescuing us and ending a cold and miserable experience.
Sincerely,
Douglas Smith
Pd.

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Facts About The BIBLE BY JOHN LEHTI

DANIEL AND THE IDOL BEL



AS PROMISED HERE IS THE OTHER OLDEST "DETECTIVE" STORY FROM THE APOCRYPHA. CYRUS THE KING, EACH DAY PROVIDED THE IDOL BEL WITH BUSHELS OF FINE FLOUR, MANY SHEEP, AND FIFTY GALLONS OF WINE, BECAUSE THIS WAS THE GOD CYRUS WORSHIPPED. WHEN THE KING ASKED DANIEL TO WORSHIP THE IDOL, DANIEL KNEW IT WAS HIGH TIME TO EXPOSE THE FAKE GOD AND THE SEVENTY PRIESTS WHO MADE A FINE LIVING AS THE REPRESENTATIVES OF BEL. CYRUS BELIEVED THAT BEL WAS REALLY A LIVING GOD BECAUSE ALL THE FOOD THAT WAS PROVIDED WAS ALWAYS CONSUMED OVERNIGHT. DANIEL KNEW DARN WELL THAT IT WAS THE PRIESTS AND THEIR FAMILIES WHO DID ALL THE EATING. BUT HOW TO EXPOSE THEM SO KING CYRUS WOULD KNOW THAT BEL WAS A FAKE GOD? WELL, DANIEL, IN TRUE DETECTIVE STORY STYLE, LAID A TRAP FOR THE PRIESTS AND PROVED CONCLUSIVELY TO KING CYRUS THAT THE IDOL WAS A FAKE AND THAT THE ONLY TRUE, LIVING GOD WAS THE LORD GOD WHOM DANIEL WORSHIPPED! HOW HE ACCOMPLISHED THIS FEAT IS DULY RECORDED IN THE BOOK OF APOCRYPHA AND IS WELL WORTH READING—IT CERTAINLY ESTABLISHES DANIEL AS A FIRST-GRADE DETECTIVE ALONG WITH THE BEST OF THEM! SO GO TO IT—READ IT AND SEE IF YOU DON'T AGREE!

NEXT WEEK: BIBLE SMUGGLING—TODAY?!

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