New Book Portrays Everyday Life-400 Years Ago

The first book published by America's Four Hundredth Anniversary Committee offers dramatic accounts of day-today life on North Carolina's Outer Banks — 400 years ago!

The first English attempts at colonization are portrayed in the new book offered by the Department of Cultural Resources Historical Publications Section. Fifteen documents, in the words of the explorers involved, depict in detail the Roanoke Voyages in the new volume entitled "The First Colonists: Documents on

the Planting of the First English Settlements in North America, 1584-1590."

From the depth of the water where the explorers waded ashore to curiosity about the Indians to the search for the Lost Colony — the documents offer a chronicle of the English expeditions that led to the colonization of the New World.

The 199-page volume edited by Dr. David B. Quinn and Alison M. Quinn is called "an authentic voice of the traveler — a narrative of overseas exploration." The 15 documents range from Arthur Barlowe's narrative of his 1584 exploration to John White's narrative of his desperate search for members of the Lost Colony in 1590.

In the late 16th century, Richard Hakluyt, interested in English overseas exploration from childhood, believed North America could make England rich and powerful. He saw the Roanoke Voyages as the "fruition of his fondest hope." The narratives "represented a vital element in

his record of English enterprise in North America." He thought of them as "guides and an inspiration to future transatlantic explorers and planters."

To today's readers, the documents record the ex-plorers' findings, their feelings and impressions as they roamed the Outer Banks and attempted to plant a colony. Although those attempts failed, the voyages attracted much more attention from both historians and ordinary people than the small number of individuals actually involved in the ventures might seem to justify. John White's famous drawings of the Roanoke Island area beame the bestknown part of North America long before permanent oc-cupation of North Carolina began in the 1650s.

Documents in the volume include the journals and narratives of Arthur Barlowe, Ralph Lane, Thomas Harriot, Walter Briggs, Pedro Morales and Nicolas Burgoignon, Richard Hakluyt and several from John White.

As his ship arrived in 1584, Arthur Barlowe and his men were enthusiastic at what they saw. Their first act was to take possession of the land "in the right of the Queenes most excellent Majestie, as rightful Queene, and Princess of the same." He wrote, "...we viewed the lande about us, being whereas very sandie and lowe towards the water side, but so full of grapes...which we founde such plentie..that I thinke in all the world the like aboundance is not to be founde."

Barlowe vividly described the actions of three Indians who appeared after two days, showed no fear, came aboard his ship and accepted "a shirt, a hatte and some other things" and a taste of their wine. One of the Indians returned to his boat and "in lesse than halfe an howre, hee has laden his boate as deepe, as it could swimme...and there he devided his fishe into two partes, pointing one part to the shippe, and the other to the Pinnesse (the small ship)," and departed.

All writers were unanimous in their enthusiam for the climate and abundance and fertile soil. All discuss their relations with those whom they deemed "the savages."

Thomas Hariott in "A briefe and true report of the new found land of Virginia," which was the first book in English written in the New World, covered details of agricultural efforts and commodities and other resources as diverse as minerals, wildlife, pearls and maize.

He describes sassafras as "a kinde of wood of most pleasant and sweete smell, and of most rare vertues in phisike for the cure of many diseases."

In addition to the narratives, the volume, which is a new and expanded edition of the Quinns' 1973 "Virginia Voyages from Hakluyt," includes a new preface by the Quinns as well as illustrations and maps by John White and others; a chronology of voyages; lists of participants; explanatory notes and several indexes.

The book is available at \$5 a copy plus \$1 postage from Historical Publications Section, Department of Cultural Resources, 109 E. Jones St., Raleigh, 27611.

Sunday

November 14, 1982

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