

Pugh's Speech

An Original and Ornate Oration Delivered By a Youthful Roanoke Islander at Recent Celebration Meeting.

Mr. C. P. Pugh's Address of Welcome.

Having received repeated requests from our readers for a publication of the speech delivered by Mr. C. P. Pugh, at the recent meeting on Roanoke Island we take great pleasure in presenting same to our readers. In future issues we will give other speeches rendered upon that occasion.

THE SPEECH.

Ladies and Gentlemen; Gentlemen of the Historical Association of the Lost Colony of Roanoke Island:

We are now standing in the dawn of the twentieth century, fixed stars are fading from our view and we grope in uncertain light. But about four centuries ago on the spot where we now stand, surrounded by all the many evidences of civilized life, the rank thistle nodded in the wind and the wild fox dug his hole unscared; and here lived and loved another race of beings, beneath the same sun that courses his way in matchless splendor across the great arch of the sky; the Indian hunter pursued the panting deer; gazing on the same moon that smiles for you, the Indian lover wooed his dusky mate.

Here he paddled his light canoe across these sheltered bays; here in the morning hours could be seen the Indian squaw tilling the soil, and at night their council fires gleamed along our shores.

On they lived through unnumbered ages until, as civilization advanced, their war cry was known only to the western wilds. After ages of petty warfare among themselves, as the sixteenth century drew to a close, they were confronted by men who built ships that withstood the ocean's storms and who shook the solid earth with the roar of their artillery.

Now only a few descendants of those dark-hued children of the forest still have their wigwams in North Carolina.

This State, until the year of 1583, had not been settled by white men, one attempt had been made by a brave young Englishman, Walter Raleigh, but had proven an utter failure. Still his ambition and courage kept pressing him on until on the 24th day July, 1584, the shores of North Carolina were seen by a company of men under Amadas and Barlowe.

They came close to a sand beach and finally continued their sail northward along the low, barren barriers of sand, which divide the waters of the ocean from those of Pamlico and Croatan sounds—until they came to anchor near an island.

Across the desolate sand ridges were fair, land locked, waters and great forests, and far out to sea floated the odor of numerous flowers.

These weary toilers were charmed with the richness of vegetation and the cheerful songs of the mocking bird.

One morning they beheld in the distance a small canoe, with some Indians in it, which appeared to be moving toward their vessel. The boatmen came aboard and were kindly treated by the whites. The Indians in return invited their strange visitors ashore.

Two Indians of important distinction were Manteo and Wanchese. Manteo proved to be friendly to the whites, and gentlemen of the State Literary and Historical Association, just as Manteo opened the doors of his wigwam and treated with courtesy the pale faces just as do we, the citizens of Roanoke Island, open our doors in hearty welcome to you.

We are glad to have you with us, and hope that in your considerations you will deem it wise to hold your memorial services on this historical spot.

Certainly there can be no other place within the bounds of the Old North State more fitting for such an enterprise than here where the colony of John White perished; here where still lingers the mystery of the lost colony; here where Virginia Dare, the first white child in America, first saw the light of day, and here in fact, where the real history of North Carolina had its first beginning.

Thus we feel justified in claiming that there is no place more fit for the occasion than this island, beautifully situated in the extreme eastern portion of the State, surrounded by sounds abounding in fish and oysters, where one can lay his body down, to rest at night. And here the swelling billows of the mighty ocean as they throb and beat upon the shores, where one can see in his imagination, Amadas and Barlowe as they sail along our shores or call to mind the unfortunate colony of Ralph Lanu, the first governor of this uncertain beginning of North Carolina.

And through history, we have a new vision of Sir Walter Raleigh, after all his exploits had been failures, as he is called before a jealous King and falls an innocent victim to royal hate and tyrannical spite. Still there remains in every loyal North Carolinian, a heart full of love and pride for the name of Raleigh.

Well might every North Carolinian repeat, where were laid the first arches of empire; "And freedom looked down from its height."

What, though the grim hand of disaster Swept over the Island and sea, There's ever a charm in the story, That tells of a Raleigh to me."

And, gentlemen, there can be no other place more fit for the memorial service which you intend to hold than historic Roanoke Island.

Again I would say we bid you welcome to our midst, and hope that in your consideration you will unanimously decide to hold your memorial celebration in this extreme Eastern part of your State, where the first colony of North Carolina settled, where the first white child in America was born, where the faithful colony of fifteen perished; where the first attempt at colonization was made.

Yes, here where you meet today on this sea-encircled home of the brave fore-runners of our history—Roanoke Island.

In conclusion, we bid you God-speed in your noble desire to promote interest in the past history of North Carolina. Though we are cut off by the waters of the sound from the mainland, still our hearts beat with as true a patriotism as that which animates the sturdy inhabitants of the Blue Ridge or the Smoky Mountains, and whether the call be to aid in noble work of peace and education or to grasp the musket and stand shoulder to shoulder in her defence, the inhabitants of Roanoke will be true to Carolina. We love her for her history and we stand ready to make that history now, as it has been in the past, glorious and honorable.

And with the same kindly feeling that inspired the friendly Manteo to receive with welcome those visitors from over the sea we once more extend to you, the brothers of our common mother, welcome to our household and to our island-home.

THE DECREE.

In the Case of Banks vs Andrew Brown et al.

Below we publish the decree of Judge Parnell in the land suit of the Receivers of the Bank of Commerce, of Buffalo, N. Y., vs Andrew Brown et al. Brown it will be re-

membered is manager of the East Coast Cedar Co. of this city. This suit has been in litigation for several years and has attracted more than local interest.

Messrs. E. F. Aydtlett of this city, and F. H. Busbee, of Raleigh, appeared for the defendants and W. D. Pruden, of Edenton, J. E. Shepherd of Raleigh, and Norris Morey, of Buffalo, N. Y., appeared for the Receivers of the Bank.

This case coming up to be heard upon the pleadings, testimony, exhibits and admissions of counsel, and it appearing to the court, and the court so adjudge, that due service of the process herein has been made upon all the above named defendants by publications. And it further appearing to the satisfaction of the court, and the court so finds, that no notice was given as required by Section 64, Acts 1897, of the laws of N. C., after the sale of the land described in the bill of complaint for taxes; that Andrew Brown was the real owner of the Equity of Redemption in said lands, and was in control and possession of the same through his agents ever since the execution of the mortgage mentioned in the bill of complaint and at the time of the sale of the said land for taxes. That as such owner of the Equity of Redemption and also as agent for the Bank of Commerce of Buffalo he has always listed the said lands for taxation, and up to the dissolution of the said Bank, had paid the taxes on the same, sending the tax receipts to said Bank. That without notice to Bank he failed to pay said taxes as he had heretofore done, and to allow the same to be sold in May 1897, and to cause the same to be purchased for his benefit. That he caused for his benefit in the name of the defendant Belding, the sheriff's deed being executed to said Belding May 1898, who conveyed the same to the defendant Wirgman. And it being admitted by counsel for defendants on the argument that the said Belding and Wirgman were not bona fide purchasers, and stand in respect to all equities and defences in the places of the said defendant Andrew Brown. And there being no satisfactory evidence that the said mortgage indebtedness has been paid, and it further appearing that Martin Clark has, in addition to the equitable assignment of the said mortgage and indebtedness, formally conveyed and released to plaintiff all legal title in the same to the said Bank, the same being filed in this court. It is adjudged that the deed of the Sheriff of Tyrrell county to C. G. Belding, under the tax sale, and the deed from C. C. Belding to F. M. Wirgman, be and are hereby set aside and declared fraudulent and void, and that they be and the same are hereby cancelled as a cloud upon the title and interest acquired by the plaintiffs under the said deed of mortgage. That the plaintiffs recover judgment for the sum of fifty thousand dollars, and interest semi-annually at 6 per cent according to the terms of the mortgage from Feb. the 17th, 1891, and the costs of this action, and that the land described in the bill of complaint is condemned and charged with that amount of said cost.

It is further ordered and decreed that if the said amount and costs are not paid within ninety days from the date of this decree, the said Andrew Brown and all of the other defendants herein, and all persons claiming under or through them shall be forever barred and foreclosed of all equity of redemption or other interest whatsoever in the said lands, and that Thos. G. Skinner and Isaac M. Meekins, who are hereby appointed as commissioners of this court, do advertise the said land for sale for four successive weeks prior to said sale in a newspaper published in Tyrrell county, or if there be none published in said county, then in an Elizabeth City paper, and to sell the same at public auction for cash to the highest bidder at the Court House door of said county, and report such to this court.

That the commissioners shall require 5 per cent of the bid to be paid in cash immediately upon the closing of the bidding, and upon default thereof shall immediately reopen the bidding and to the highest bidder complying with such terms.

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