

ORIGIN OF CROATAN

Interesting Historical Paper by Mr. J. H. Myrover, of Fayetteville, Read to Richmond's North Carolina Society by Mr. J. Allison Hodges...

(Special to Charlotte Observer.)

Richmond, Va., May 18.—The annual meeting of the North Carolina Society of Richmond, which always takes place on or about the 20th of May...

The feature of the evening was the paper by Mr. J. H. Myrover, of Fayetteville, N. C., "The Lost Colony," or an answer to the question, "Where is the grave of Virginia Dare?"

Mr. Myrover's Address.

The historian Bancroft, in his first volume of the Colonization of the United States says:

"The Island of Roanoke is now almost uninhabited; commerce has selected secure harbors for its pursuits, the intrepid pilot and the hardy wrecker, rendered adventurously daring by their familiarity with the dangers of the coast..."

More than a year ago I read in The Richmond Times-Dispatch, a letter from a correspondent, describing a visit to Roanoke Island, and speaking of it as the last resting place of Virginia Dare, the first child born of white parents on American soil.

Bancroft says: "The name of Raleigh stands highest among the statesmen of England who advanced the colonization of the United States; and his fame belongs to American history."

In one of the "North Carolina Day Exercises," prepared and published by the scholarly Prof. Connor, is the sketch, "Virginia Dare," in which occur the following paragraphs:

"The White Doe," and her baby, the little Virginia, the first white infant they had ever seen, "The White Fawn, and there is a pretty tradition that after her death her spirit assumed that form—an elfin fawn—which, clad in immortal beauty, would at times be seen haunting like a tender memory the place of her birth, or gazing wistfully over the sea, as with pathetic yearnings for the far away land."

William Strachery, in his "History of Travels" says: "At Ritano the Weroance Eyanoca preserved seven of the English alive—four men, two boys, and one young maid, who escaped the massacre, and fled up the river Chanoke."

The "Virginia Dare" sketch continues: "Both John Smith and Strachey make mention of scattered parties

established a municipal government for the city of Raleigh. John White was appointed Governor, and with a fleet of transport ships arrived on the coast of North Carolina in July.

As the time for the return of the ships for England drew near, the immigrants became gloomy with apprehension, and women and men urged Governor White to return and use his vigorous efforts for the prompt despatch of supplies...

Almost near enough to Cumberland by kinship and geography to be classed in the Cape Fear section are our neighbors and good friends the people of Robeson county, the upper Pee Dee and Lumber river country.

The Croatans. It was from this people that a band in the late sixties and early seventies, led by their chief, Henry Berry Lowry, terrorized Robeson county, robbing, burning, slaying, their crimes being generally characterized by unparalleled audacity...

Their Origin.

Prof. S. B. Weeks, one of the most finished scholars in the country; Prof. Reed Smith, a painstaking erudite writer in the Columbia State, and Prof. Hamilton McMillan, of Red Springs, possessed of a vast fund of information and endowed with varied scholarly attainments...

Belief Regarding Croatans. Prof. S. B. Weeks, in his summing up of his very carefully considered article "The Croatans; Whence and Where," declares it most probable he does not say certain, that the Robeson county Croatans are the Hatteras Indians, amalgamated with the Lost Virginia Colony...

The White Doe.

By the Indians Eleanor Dare, the first mother of the white race known to them, is said to have been called, in their figurative and descriptive way "The White Doe," and her baby, the little Virginia, the first white infant they had ever seen, "The White Fawn, and there is a pretty tradition that after her death her spirit assumed that form—an elfin fawn—which, clad in immortal beauty, would at times be seen haunting like a tender memory the place of her birth...

The colonists had evidently gone to Croatan, as we now have the word, the home of Manteo, the friendly chief; but none of them was even seen of white men again.

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GROWING OF KING COTTON IN THE SOUTH

Its Throne Will Long Continue Here—Some Observations By An Authority Whose Life Study Has Been His Country's Chief Product

(By Mr. James Sprunt.)

The "Star" has been for more than forty years a distinctively farmer's newspaper, in the sense that its policy has been to foster and encourage by practical observation and sound advice, that element of our economy which provides the sources of our wealth and well being.

The farmer has been in the saddle for several years past: for a long time he was forced by untoward circumstances to follow the procession on foot, but recently he has been kept in the van of progress, and it behooves him to keep also in line with the scientific development of a profession which no longer depends upon the crude traditions of past ages...

The chief scourge of the South's wealth, and upon which we must depend in the future, is that royal gift of God which makes the cloth of the world, warp, weft and web, King Cotton. As ex-Premier Balfour said, at a meeting of the British Cotton Growing Association at Manchester last year, "There is not a civilized man in the world who does not want cotton goods."

Nineteen centuries ago Ovid described the art of weaving in his day, which, in modern times, is simply the mechanical execution of the same process: "The web enwraps the beam, the reed divides, While through the widening space the shuttle glides, Which their swift hands receive, then poised with lead, The swinging weight strikes close the inserted thread."

To-day Great Britain, the leading cotton manufacturer of the world, derives 75 per cent, of its supply of raw cotton from our Southern States. A failure of the cotton crop in the South would be a stupendous disaster to the

of these colonists several times, and the Virginia Company writes of some of them as yet alive, within fifty miles of our fort, as is testified by two of our colony sent out to search for them, who found crosses and assured testimonies of Christians newly cut in the banks of trees."

Now let us weigh briefly and impartially the reasons for the faith that is in these writers. The very last trace of this Roanoke English colony finds them hastening for succor to Croatan, the tiny Virginia Dare in her distressed mother's arms, gazing wistfully over the sea as with pathetic yearning for the far-away mother land. Beyond that they are swallowed up in mystery.

But generation after generation elapses, and there is no amalgamated white and Indian race on record in history, or the theme of story in tradition. After centuries, a strange people are found in the swamps of Robeson county, who call themselves Croatans. Wondrous, strange and significant! Whence came the name? Intelligent as they were, they were no scholars; they had no libraries; they knew not history; they could not find material for the assumption of a name; they would never imagine so strange a title.

Croatans Not Negroes. In the latter part of the sixteenth century an English colony disappears—Croatan disappears; in the nineteenth century Croatan re-appears in the swamps of Robeson county a strange people, plainly a blending of Anglo-Saxon and Indian blood. Through all the years of their semi-civilized, nomad existence not one of them, even the most ignorant, fails to repel the charge that there is negro blood in his veins.

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cotton industries of the world, especially to that large population of England dependant upon the Cotton Mills for its daily bread. The possibility of such an event, and the wide fluctuations in prices of recent years, under the manipulation of rapacious speculators and gamblers, have brought to the serious consideration of British Statesmen and Economists, the question of future supplies from more reliable sources.

As yet there are practically no means of transportation, and the British Cabinet has been recently urged by a large and important deputation of the British Cotton Grower's Association, to provide means for the extension of railways and roads in West Africa, and the improvement of the water ways of that country for the greater development of cotton planting.

Another important movement, more interesting to us in the South, is the recent visit to the United States of the Lancashire Cotton Spinners' Commission, which, upon its return to Liverpool recently reported that the possibilities of cotton growing in the Southern States are practically unlimited, millions of acres being available, and the means of transit thoroughly satisfactory.

It is most probable therefore that the throne of King Cotton will long continue in the South, and that under the more intelligent control of the farmers parliament, restricting the acreage to the increasing needs of the world, and regulating the movement for the power of a reasonable profit, his benign reign will add more than a billion dollars yearly to our beloved South, which has risen from the ashes of humiliation and sorrow to a place of exaltation among the nations of the Earth.

abstemious in the days of dearth; they are taciturn and the women do the field and other labor. Last of all—the most overwhelming fact in proof of the Indian-English blending of the race without the stain of negro blood—during all the fearful deprivations of Henry Berry Lowry and his band, not one of them committed that unutterable crime which, above all others, shows the savagery of the African nature.

The Outlaw Band. In the year 1870 I went over to Lumburg, N. C., to deliver an address; and that night the late J. L. Bundy informed me that he was coming to Fayetteville the next day, by buggy, on business, and would be glad of my company as I would find it a cheaper and shorter journey than by the Carolina Central Railroad and up the river from Wilmington, which was the only way of reaching Fayetteville at that time.

In the early afternoon, just as we had crossed the Cumberland county line, five or six men came meeting us, in the middle of the road, walking in Indian file. "Those are strange looking people," I said. "Yes they are," said Bundy. They grudgingly gave us the road, turning off into the foot-path. They were a tawny, blue-eyed set of men, and perhaps only one of them raised his head and nodded at us. I turned back in the buggy and looked at them, and turning to the front again saw that my companion's face was deadly white.

"My God!" he said, "That's Henry Lowry and his band; there has been blood and murder about here." And so there had. That morning the Lowry band had killed the two McLeodes, their wives, and desperately wounded their son John, murdering them on their hearthstone in the belief that they were possessed of a good deal of money. The news had reached Fayetteville before we got to town.

"In vain, in vain, their heart-sick search, No tidings reached them more; No record save that silent word Upon that silent shore.

"The mystery rests a mystery still, Unsolved of mortal man; Sphinx-like, untold the ages hold The tale of Croatan."

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Table with columns: Direction, Stop, Time. BETWEEN WILMINGTON AND PORTSMOUTH. Daily. Dailly. Dailly. Lv. Wilmington... 6:00 A. M. 8:45 P. M.

Table with columns: Direction, Stop, Time. BETWEEN WILMINGTON AND SAVANNAH. Daily. Dailly. Dailly. Lv. Wilmington... 6:00 A. M. 8:45 P. M.

Table with columns: Direction, Stop, Time. BETWEEN WILMINGTON AND BIRMINGHAM. Daily. Dailly. Dailly. Lv. Wilmington... 6:00 A. M. 8:45 P. M.

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