

RALEIGH STAR, And North Carolina Gazette.

I'll ask no pay until the *Francis* is tried.
If there should happen to be any one so interested as to visit the quality of my *Piano Forte*, after the abundant proofs which have been presented of their superiority, I will agree that such an individual may take one of the instruments, and try it thoroughly before paying for it. I think that there can be but little risk any way in buying a *Piano Forte* from a seller who has disposed of upwards of two hundred without ever selling a bad one, not even in a collection where payment is not required until satisfaction is given.
P. O. MAIL.
Book and Piano Forte Store, Raleigh, N. C.
Oct 2

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REPORT OF MAJ. GWYNN, CIVIL ENGINEER, UPON THE PRACTICABILITY AND PROBABLE COST OF OPENING AN INLET AT NAG'S HEAD.

NAG'S HEAD, MAY 27, 1840.

To the President and Directors of the Board of Internal Improvements.

GENTLEMEN: Having been appointed by your honorable body, to carry into effect the act of the last session of the General Assembly, requiring a report upon the practicability and probable cost of opening a communication between Albemarle Sound and the Ocean at Nag's Head, and in conformity to your directions to commence the survey in April or May, which I reported in my communication of the 27th February, as indispensable to an enquiry so difficult and important, I repaired on the 25th April to the town of Newbern, with a competent party of assistants. On the 21st, I embarked in the Government Steamboat *Newbern* for Roanoke Island, where I arrived safely, after a stormy passage, on the 20th, and immediately commenced the survey and examinations, upon which, and the information I have been able to collect, I base the following report and conclusions:

The belt of land which now stretches across the mouth of Albemarle Sound, and separates it from the sea, was formerly broken by several inlets. The two best known, and which were long used for purposes of navigation, were the Roanoke and Currituck Inlets, through which the waters of the sound were discharged into the ocean. Roanoke Inlet was situated just south of a sand hill called Nag's Head, between Collinton and Roanoke Islands.

Deriving my information from the best authenticated history, and from living testimony, I feel fully justified in stating, that there was, prior to the opening of the channel through the marshes between Roanoke Island and the main, a depth of 10 feet of water in this inlet, which gradually shoaled, and finally filled up, about 30 years ago.

Let us enquire into the causes which have led to its closing up, and into the means of re-opening it.

It is well known, that the constant tendency of every harbour is to silt or fill up, more or less, according to situation; and as the quantity of fresh water, and the impurity of the land and sea waters, differ in one place from another. The sea is incessantly bringing in sand and other substances; the streams, soil and mud; and unless the current of the land waters is mainly confined to

Roanoke and the main through the marshes, Sir Richard would certainly have left them a *vessel of some kind*, one that would have enabled them to cross it. The bark which Sir Francis Drake gave them, and of which he says they stood in so much need, was a vessel of considerable size, and in which a portion of the Colony was conveyed to England; it cannot, therefore, be understood, that the bark was wanted to enable them to cross to the main land, but to facilitate their explorations. And from the account which Governor Lane gives, of the relief afforded by Sir Francis Drake on this occasion, in a letter to Sir Richard Haklevy, I should infer that Sir Francis' fleet, which consisted of 23 sail, entered Roanoke Inlet.

Governor Lane says, "the colony was reduced to a desperate state, for the want of provisions, and the hostility of the Indians constantly lessening our numbers, and the famine grew so extreme among us, our means failing us in fish, that I was enforced to send Capt. Stafford with 20 men, to Croatan, my Lord Admiral's island, to serve two turns—one to feed himself and company, and the other to watch for shipping, and give warning, if any appeared."

"8th June, 1586. Came advertisement to me from Capt. Stafford, at my Lord Admiral's island, that he had discovered a great fleet of 23 sail. The 9th of said month he himself came to me, having travelled by land 20 miles. He brought me a letter from General Sir Francis Drake, with offers of supplies of vessels, men, ammunition, and supplies of all sorts. The 10th he arrived in the road of our bad harbour, and came to anchor. On the 11th, I visited him, and he renewed his offers of assistance. 19th June, 1586, the fleet having been previously injured by a storm, set sail with the whole colony for England."

I quote these facts, because they have been considered of sufficient importance to be called to the view of one of the Engineers who has preceded me in enquiring into the practicability of re-opening Roanoke Inlet. And my researches into the early history of this portion of the coast, which have been very elaborate, enable me to satisfy doubts which have been entertained on the subject, stating that Sir Walter Raleigh never visited the coast of North America. Nearly all his writings relative to the countries discovered by expeditions fitted out by him, have been lost; as also his geography of these countries.

I have been favored with a perusal of Doctor Harriot's journal, which, it was thought, would throw much light on this important subject, and aid in the enquiries in which I am engaged; but it is wholly taken up in speaking of "merchandise commodities, commodities for food, roots, fruits, wild berries, beasts, fowl, fish, timber, and the manners and customs of the natives." He says not one word about the coast, islands or rivers. It is sufficiently clear, therefore, without extending our views further, that in some former age there was no channel through the marshes; that at

Roanoke Island, at the time of its discovery and settlement, in 1581-86, was cut off from the main land by a very inconsiderable channel through the marshes; and that the opening of this channel has been the cause of closing Roanoke Inlet, and every inlet north of it.

In this opinion every Engineer preceding me in these investigations, concurs. Not the slightest doubt or qualification is expressed by any of them—or, as far as I am able to learn, by any professional man—or by any one who has made a personal examination and proper enquiry.

Having arrived at the cause of the closing of Roanoke Inlet, in a manner entirely satisfactory to myself, and, I hope, to every unprejudiced mind, I might proceed at once with a plan for re-opening it; but the subject is one of much importance, and my object is, not only to satisfy my own mind, but to endeavour to meet the many objections which have been raised, and to convince others.

Because Gun and Hatteras, (former outlets of Pamlico Sound,) have closed, and New Inlet and Ocracoke have not improved, (as it is said,) by the accession of the waters of Albemarle Sound, it is doubted by some, for whose opinions I entertain the highest respect, whether the opening of the channel at the marshes has had the effect ascribed to it, viz., that of closing Currituck and Roanoke Inlets.

Now, we cannot fix the precise period of the closing of Gun and Hatteras inlets. The memory of man reaches not back to the period when they were open; but, as we cannot say when they were closed, we will admit they were open when the waters of Albemarle broke through the marshes. These waters, meeting with no resistance, would of course flow on south, until checked by the combined action of the waters of the Neuse and Pamlico Rivers. A glance at the map would designate this point, and fix it opposite Ocracoke, precisely where they do meet. The consequence of thus arresting the waters of the Neuse and Pamlico was, to turn a portion of them into Core Sound, which has had the effect greatly to improve Beaufort Inlet; but by far the greatest bulk of the waters have passed through Ocracoke, it being in the direct line of deflection, thereby weakening the reflux waters of Hatteras and Gun, so that they were no longer able to carry back the sand and earthy matters brought in by the sea, and thus causing those inlets to fill up.

The closing of these inlets, then, may be fairly ascribed to the opening of the channel through the marshes, and the consequent union of the waters of the Albemarle and Pamlico Sounds. New Inlet being further up the Sound, and more favorably situated in relation to the land, has not been so much affected by the arresting of the currents of the Neuse and Pamlico.

The reflux tides occasioned by the back waters of the south easterly winds opposed by the flow from Albemarle Sound, have maintained its depth, as is evident from the channel being on the south side. It has not improved, for the obvious reason that the bulkheads and shoals formed within the inlet, before the opening of the marshes, oppose more resistance to the passage of the water than its tendency to run in that direction, even with a greater descent, is capable of overcoming. "For the natural tendency of water is, to make its way in whatever direction it finds the greatest declivity; and if this happens to be in the shortest direction, it has no natural tendency to gain a longer course, as that would lessen the declivity. If, therefore, water is found pursuing a direction which is not the shortest, we may conclude, (and, on examination, we will always find,) that the longer course is owing to the intervention of some obstacle, so placed that the waters cannot have, at that particular point, a more speedy descent in a direction different from that which would form the shortest line of the whole descent; and, from causes of this kind, a stream may have a course meandering in every possible direction, as we frequently observe in nature."

The shoalness of the water opposite the mouth of New Inlet, is the obstacle preventing any great increase of outflow through it, and accounts satisfactorily for its not being improved by the opening of the marshes. And the application of the above principle, confirms my statement of a descent from Albemarle to Pamlico Sound.

We come now to another doubt which has been raised, as to the effect the diversion of the waters from Roanoke Inlet, through the

marshes, has had in closing it, viz: because the accession of water thereby given to Pamlico Sound, has not caused an improvement of Ocracoke Inlet. From the best information I have been able to obtain, the depth of water on the bar has increased, notwithstanding the width of the inlet has become greater. But, as was to have been expected, as a natural consequence, the bulkheads and shoals on the inner side, and opposite the mouth of the inlet, have accumulated; for it is there that the Albemarle waters meet those of the Neuse and Pamlico. In the conflict which takes place, there is a kind of stagnation or diminished velocity; during which, the solid matter held in suspension is precipitated, so that after the union of these waters, they flow on comparatively pure to the sea, leaving behind deposits which form the bulkheads and shoals that obstruct the entrance into Ocracoke Inlet. For this reason, the accession of the waters of Albemarle Sound have proved injurious to the inlet.

Upon the withdrawal of these waters, as is proposed in the opening of Roanoke Inlet, when the waters of the Pamlico & Neuse shall be allowed to pursue their direct and undisturbed course through Ocracoke, the deposits will not be so great, & a considerable improvement of the inlet may be expected, and will no doubt be the result. But a wash or middle ground, opposite the inlet, must always exist, owing to the great expanse of the waters; and the consequent independent and great rise of water at the bar which is not felt in the sound, counteracts and destroys the scouring effects of the ebb tides. This evil can only be remedied by confining the waters and directing their energies into one channel. Two inlets, and comparing the circumstances in relation to the two inlets, even the small depth of water at Ocracoke is favorable to the conclusion I shall presently draw of the successful result attending the project for re-opening the inlet at Nag's Head.

Shutting off the waters of the Albemarle Sound from the Pamlico Sound, will have the effect to improve New Inlet. The waters blown up the sound by the south winds, as before mentioned, meeting with resistance from the dams across Roanoke and Croatan Sounds, will be backed up and forced through the inlet (only 6 miles distant from the dams) with a velocity that will cut away a portion of the wash, and by taking advantage of low tides to stir up the sand, which can be done at a very moderate expense, either with the Hedge Hog or Harrow, the bulkheads may be entirely removed. The advantages to the commerce of the northern part of Pamlico Sound and the entire security the harbour would afford to vessels driven to leeward of Roanoke Inlet, would more than compensate for any expense that might be incurred in keeping it open and of a sufficient depth for the admittance of ordinary coasting vessels.

It has been suggested that Albemarle Sound will not afford a supply of water adequate to keep Roanoke Inlet free of obstructions; that sufficient allowance has not been made for evaporation; and that the quantity of water which would be lost by the evaporation has not been estimated.

To investigate these matters fully, would occupy more time and incur more expense than I consider them worthy of, unless indeed I entertained such doubts myself. I am willing to rely on the statements heretofore made relative to them; and upon such, together with my own estimate of the quantity flowing through Croatan Sound into Pamlico, when unimpeded by winds, I have no hesitation in saying there will be a sufficient quantity for all purposes, and that too without taking into the estimate the quantity thrown in by the influx tides.

Another ground upon which the failure of the improvement has been predicted, is, that it has no scope to the windward to shelter it against the North East winds, and that a good harbour cannot exist on a straight coast.

There are many striking instances abroad against this theory; but I prefer drawing conclusions from a similarity of circumstances in our own country. A glance at the map will show, without discussing the matter, that it will not admit of general application. At the mouth of Cape Fear River, New Inlet, which, next to Beaufort, is the best inlet on the coast of North Carolina, broke out some sixty years ago to the windward of the cape, and Old Inlet, under its lee, is becoming more and more shoal every year. Further South, we find Charleston, Savannah, Brunswick and Pensacola all good inlets, with good harbours, on a straight sandy coast.

In support of the theory, that Roanoke Inlet was not filled up by the opening of the channel through the marshes and the withdrawal thither of the waters of the Albemarle from the inlet, its filling up has been ascribed to the sinking of a vessel in the channel of the inlet, to the blowing in of the sand, and to the currents from the land not being as strong as those from the sea.

Fortunately my own observations, strengthened by the testimony of respectable persons, enable me also to refute these speculations. The hull of a vessel wrecked, 16 years ago, within half a mile of the site of the old inlet, still shows itself above the sand, although it is nearly submerged by every flood tide. And admitting a vessel was sunk, of which there is much doubt, it is hardly probable it would form a nucleus sufficient to cause the closing of the inlet. Such has not been the effect in the case of the steamer William Gibbon, sunk about 5 years ago in New Inlet, where the gallous frame is now to be seen above the water at high tide, and the inlet still as good as it has been within the memory of man.

As to the blowing in of the sands, there is no accumulation of sand near the site of the old inlet. The beach at Nag's Head is flat for the distance of a mile and a half, on each side of the former course of the inlet; indeed, so small is the rise, that at the distance of five miles, the lines of separation between the ocean and the sound are imperceptible; and a person unacquainted with the fact of the inlet being closed, would not suspect that any land intervened, and it so happens that this part of the beach is composed principally of gravel. I cannot, therefore, believe that the filling up of the inlet has been in any way facilitated by a wreck in the channel or by the blowing in of sand. The greater quantity of gravel which enters into the formation of the sea beach here than is found elsewhere, attests the power with which the land currents have resisted the sea.

That they would have been sufficiently strong to have forced this gravel back into the sea, had not the waters of Albemarle broke through the marshes, I cannot entertain a doubt. From my own observation of their force, (governed exclusively by the winds) and the violence with which they are driven on and along the inner edge of the beach, across which, in strong westerly winds, they have been known sometimes to break into the ocean, satisfies me they were fully as strong as the currents from the sea, before the union of the waters of Albemarle with those of Pamlico.

A conviction of these imaginary difficulties in the way of opening Roanoke Inlet, has given origin to a project of an artificial harbour, based upon the theory of there being a necessity of a conformity and fixed proportion between the capacity of a harbour and its inlet; and under such circumstances, that the influx and reflux of the tides are adequate to free the harbour and preserve it from alteration. But it is a well established theory that tidal currents do not contribute to

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PROCLAMATION

TWO HUNDRED DOLLARS REWARD STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA.

BY HIS EXCELLENCY EDWARD B. DUDLEY, GOVERNOR, &c.

To all to whom these presents shall come—Greeting:

WHEREAS it has been officially reported to this Department, that on the 13th day of November, 1839, one NATHAN LAMBETH, of Davidson County, in this State, ordered, hired, and managed that he should, and did, send JOHN GOSS, stands the good with the commission of said deed, whereas Lee Wharton, Abner Ward, Alexander Bishop, Joshua Deer and Hope H. Sikes were present, using and aiding and abetting the said John Goss in the perpetration of said felony; and whereas said offenders, have fled and secreted themselves from the regular operations of the Law and Justice.

Now, therefore, I do hereby order that the said John Goss and his associates, or either of them, may be brought to trial, I have thought proper to issue this Proclamation, offering a reward of Two Hundred Dollars for the apprehension of the said John Goss, and a further reward of One Hundred Dollars each, for one or either of his accomplices, to any person or persons who will apprehend or cause to be apprehended any or all of the offenders, and bring them, arrested, and confine them, or either of them, in the Jail, or deliver them, or either of them, to the Sheriff of Davidson County in the State aforesaid. And I do, moreover, hereby require all officers, whether civil or military, within this State, to use their best exertions to apprehend, or cause to be apprehended, the fugitive and offenders aforesaid.

Given under my hand as Governor and the Great Seal of the State of North Carolina, Done at our City of Raleigh, this 20th day of October, A. D. 1840. EDWARD B. DUDLEY.

By Command, C. G. BATTLE, Private Secretary

Description of the Offenders named in the above Proclamation.

John Goss is about 33 years old, 5 feet 9 or 10 inches high, dark complexion, dark curly hair, and has some specks of gunpowder in his face—short nose and quick of speech.

Lee Wharton is about 23 years old, 5 feet 8 or 9 inches high, fair hair and complexion, his face is broad and wide open, large eyebrows, a down look, voice fine, slow spoken and is stout made.

Abner Ward is about 55 years old, and 5 feet 6 inches high, stout shoulders, fair complexion, blue eyes, and is grey-headed.

Joshua Deer is about 28 years old, 5 feet 8 or 9 inches high, fair skin, blue eyes, square made, thin nose, quick spoken, his hair is dark colored.

Alexander C. Bishop is about 25 years old, fair and pale complexion, sandy colored hair, quick spoken, 5 feet 6 or 7 inches high and dark eyes.

Hope H. Sikes is about 25 years old, 5 feet 8 or 9 inches high, fair complexion and full face, dark hair and curly made, and speaks in the ordinary way when spoken to.

Oct. 23 45.—The Steward, Salisbury Watchman, Greenborough Patriot, Intelligence, Lexington, Ky., and Banner, Nashville, Tenn., will insert the above weekly until countermanded.

BAIN'S LETTERS.

Letters and meditations on Religion and other subjects, by William T. Bain for Sale at the North Carolina Book Store. Raleigh, June 24, 1840.