

to dispose of it. Garrett stated that he wished to use the picture of the vine on his Scuppernong bottles as an advertisement and that he had offered a very handsome figure for the vine. He desired also to use the grapes from this vine and to develop the latter by cultivation and the most careful attention.

This vine is about two miles south of the site of old Fort Raleigh, which was the one built by Sir Walter Raleigh's second colony, known as the "Lost Colony" but which is now known to have amalgamated with the Indians of that region and gone to the up-country, the center of its new home being what is now Robeson county. The scenery round about is very remarkable. Quite near are dwelling houses and beyond these the shining stretch of shallow sound, generally but a few feet deep, the water not being salt, though so near the ocean and only separated from the latter by a narrow sandbank, but being of a golden hue, looking as if burnished when the sun shines upon it. The houses, which are more than a century and a half old, are covered with grey moss from top to bottom and this makes the most beautiful weather stain imaginable. Not far away is Ballast Point, where the English colonists first landed, and within sight, if one views the region from the top of a house or of a tree, there can be seen the place where the Federal troops landed when the island was taken from the Confederates very early during the Civil War, after quite a bloody battle and the capture of almost all of Col. Shaw's Eighth Regiment of North Carolina infantry. Hardby, as stated, are the remains of the fort built by Sir Walter Raleigh's colonists, its star-like outline yet strangely distinct and now marked by the state with granite pillars, though the shape is yet so perfect that every outline is clear.

The woods are thick here and there, vast sand dunes roll their shining globes, with an incessant whispering noise, down steep slopes, overwhelming the forest as these dunes or mounds, some sixty feet high, advance, remorseless. When there are open spaces the ground shows every evidence of cultivation for centuries. There is an air of age and of the olden time everywhere and it arrests the attention of every visitor. No where in the country does such a combination of old and new appear; the old fort linking the place with the days of Queen Elizabeth; the Confederate earthworks; those built by the Federals; the vast quantity of shells and shot exposed when the wind blows the water out of the shallow sound; the quaint old houses, built in a style long out of vogue; canoes adroitly carved out of trunks of great tupelo or gum trees, and mingled with these the stirring gas boats, the discharges from whose engines are like those from galling guns in action; the old-fashioned people, slow in speech and in manner and retaining all sorts of memories of long-gone days, and here and there new settlers, many from the north, who in winter and summer make this island, the largest in North Carolina, their resort. In winter-time the banging of the guns shows that the duck hunters are abroad, and vast flights of swan and geese and ducks pass overhead, sometimes in almost unending procession.

From a height the roaring ocean, deeply blue, can be seen through gaps in the high barrier of sand, known locally as the "banks". The opening or inlet through which Sir Walter's colonists sailed into the sound and thence to Roanoke Island has been closed or else has shifted its place long ago, but there are others through which entrance is to be had. No more primitive people are to be found in the country than those along these banks. They are hospitable to the last degree and they travel by boat entirely. It is a watery world and the people who come to the grand old grapevine and have come for all these scores of years make their journeys in boats. It is indeed a place for a pilgrimage.

The Indian days are kept in mind in the name of the county seat. Manteo, who was the good Indian who was the first of his race to be baptized in the Church of England, while Virginia Dare, the first born of the new colonists, was the first person of English birth to receive that holy rite on this continent. In other towns, one also a part of the island, the names of other Indians are preserved, Skyco and Wanchese. So on a court day the white boats like birds come hurrying across the water if the breeze be fine, or else loiter while their masters sit lazily astern and smoke the pipe of peace. For them no brain-storms and no hurry or worry. They epitomize the story of quaint Roanoke Island, where the name of the chief hotel is "Tranquility House" a most fitting title.

—FRED A. OLDS.

Train Dispatching by Telephone

The Aberdeen & Asheboro Railroad has purchased telephone equipment to take the place of the telegraph for dispatching trains. A central station will be established and a switchboard installed at Biscoe. Four telephone lines will enter this switchboard and will terminate at Asheboro, twenty-seven miles away; Mount Gilead, twenty-five miles; Ellerbee, twenty-three miles, and Aberdeen forty-seven miles, including branches. There will be twenty-one telephone stations on these four lines.

Through the medium of the switchboard at Biscoe, the dispatcher will be able to reach any station he desires, and the traffic on the entire road will be under his supervision. Arrangements will also be made for connections with several local lines at Biscoe.



TYPICAL PLANTATION MANSION

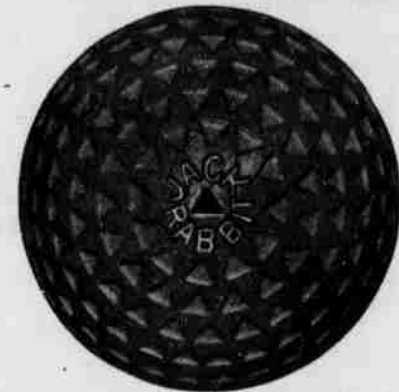
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