

Where is the Lost Colony?



*A six-chapter
series
celebrating the
first English
colony in the
New World —
20 years before
Jamestown was
settled!*

by Sandy Seamans



Table of Contents

CHAPTER ONE	
Time to ‘sleep’ on it	3
CHAPTER TWO	
Hail to the Queen!	6
CHAPTER THREE	
Longing for Virginia Dare.....	9
CHAPTER FOUR	
Clue not enough to solve mystery.....	14
CHAPTER FIVE	
Manteo, man of few words	17
CHAPTER SIX	
‘You sleep on it’	20
Fast Facts	24
Lost Colony Background	28



Chapter One

Time to 'sleep' on it

Justin quickly shoveled the peas into his mouth so that his plate was empty. Usually he tried to hide them under a morsel of bread or slide them over to his sister Ashley's plate when no one was looking.

But tonight he didn't have time to see if he could outwit his mother. He had important things to do and wanted to finish dinner as quickly as possible.

"May I be excused from the table?" he asked his mother.

She responded by looking both puzzled and surprised. "You ate all your vegetables? They're not in your pocket again, are they?"

"No, ma'am. I ate everything on my plate, so may I please be excused now?" Justin asked for the second time.

Ashley — always a pain-in-the-neck-little-sister — piped in "I want to play, too! Let me play with you, Justin."

Rolling his eyes to illustrate his frustration, Justin said, "I'm not going to play. I'm going to bed."

That statement left Mom, Dad and Ashley speechless at first.

After silently staring at him for what seemed like forever, his mother asked if he were sick.

Before he could answer, his dad asked if he were in trouble at school. And then Ashley asked if he had a new puppy hidden in his room.

"No, no and no!" Justin responded. "I just want to go to bed right now."

Somewhat begrudgingly, his mother told him he could leave the table. Silently, she vowed to check on Justin later to see if he had a fever.





*President Franklin Delano Roosevelt made the difficult trip to the Outer Banks in August 1937 to witness the outdoor drama, *The Lost Colony*, during its first season.*

Justin sprinted down the hallway to his room and quickly closed the door. He began to take his clothes off but then stopped. “I’d better shower and brush my teeth so they don’t come in to remind me,” he said to himself.

Finally, with the shower done, clean pajamas on and teeth brushed, he climbed under the covers. He could still see a bit of daylight coming in under the window shade.

He could now get down to the task at hand; he could begin to “sleep on it.”

That is what Grandpa always told him to do when there was something to be resolved or a mystery to be solved - sleep on it.

Today, while they were fishing, Grandpa told him that he would take him to the Outer Banks this summer if Justin could solve the mystery of *The Lost Colony*. He had to be able to tell Grandpa where to find it!

“How can I do that?” asked Justin.

Grandpa grinned and replied, “You sleep on it!”

And now Justin would “sleep on it” until he found the answer.

He tossed and turned and after a while, he drifted off into the land of dreams and other knowledge — the place where he could conjure up ghosts

of centuries past to help him find the answers.

There in the distance stood a man in short pants, a feathered hat and a shiny sword. “Sir Raleigh!” someone shouted, “the Queen is awaiting your presence and isn’t pleased with your tardiness.”

Justin watched as Sir Raleigh rushed toward an open stone courtyard.

“He can help me,” Justin thought as he flew across the distance to catch up with the man.

“Mister, mister...can you help me find the lost colony?” he said aloud.

Sir Raleigh turned toward Justin and, as words began to form on his lips, Justin was awakened by his mother’s hand on his forehead, checking to see if he had a fever.

Now, he would have to try again to “sleep on it” and solve the mystery.

Provided by the NC Press Foundation, Newspapers in Education.

Next week, Chapter 2, Hail to the Queen!

ACTIVITY:

Who are the characters introduced in this chapter? Who were members of Justin’s family? Who did Justin see in his dream? Track how Justin’s feelings change toward his family members over the course of the story.

Look for people in print and digital editions of the newspaper who remind you of the characters in the first chapter? What do the characters in the chapter have in common with real people whom you find in the news?

Chapter Two

Hail to the Queen!

Justin tossed and turned as he tried to go back to sleep after being awakened by his mother.

Maybe if he felt more tired, he thought. He jumped out of bed and began doing jumping jacks and then tried running in place.

Neither worked.

Reading might be the key, he thought. Rummaging through a stack of books, he found one that was sure to put him to sleep — Beowulf!

After a while, his eyelids began to flutter and then he slowly sank back into the land of dreams.

There he was! Sir Walter Raleigh was just going through the archway. If Justin hurried, maybe he could catch up with him.

He shouted out a couple of times as he ran across the cobblestone courtyard, but Raleigh apparently didn't hear him — or he had no time to deal with a young boy.

Finally, Justin caught up to him as Raleigh bowed to the woman in the back of the room and the two began talking.

“Sir, sir, can you help me?” Justin asked as he approached his target.

“Who dares to interrupt the Queen?” the woman growled as she took a step toward him.

Justin stared for a moment before he asked, “Are you the Pumpkin Queen?”

“What did you say? How dare you make light of royal authority!” Queen Elizabeth shouted.

Cowering a little, Justin responded, “I didn't mean to make you mad. Your skirt is orange and shaped like a pumpkin and the top is green and looks like a stem....”



Catherine Moran, queen, and Sir Walter Raleigh, unidentified, acted in a production of the Lost Colony. Photo courtesy of the Lost Colony Archives.

“Unbelievable! You must be short of your wits to address me in such a manner,” she said as she glanced down at her skirt.

“I’m sorry, I just wanted to ask Sir Raleigh if he knows where the lost colony is,” Justin said with a slight quiver in his voice.

Now her attention swung to Raleigh. “You lost the colony? After pestering and prodding me for permission to send settlers to that place so we could beat Spain to claiming the area, you lost them?” she demanded to know.

“They aren’t lost, your Majesty,” Raleigh said, “...they just misplaced themselves.”

Snapping her fan to show her displeasure, the Queen shouted, “Pray

tell, how do 117 souls left there in 1587 misplace themselves by 1590? Oh, never mind, just get out of my sight - both of you wretches!”

Justin followed Raleigh’s lead in bowing to the Queen as he backed toward the archway.

The Queen was still shouting as they left her sight. “Prepare a new wardrobe for me at once and, when I’ve changed, burn this skirt and bodice and bury the ashes,” she ordered her ladies-in-waiting. “Pumpkin Queen? Hah!”

As Justin stepped into the courtyard, Raleigh let out a bellowing laugh. “Pumpkin Queen? You insulted the Queen by comparing her with something grown by Indians in the New World? Wherever did you get that?”

Justin, insulted slightly by Raleigh’s laughter, said, “I don’t know why she got so mad — my older sister Jessica is the Cucumber Queen and has a crown and all her friends are jealous. She says that next year she wants to be the Strawberry Queen but that she isn’t sure she can win that one because she might not be tall enough.”

Raleigh stared at him for a moment and then shook his head as though he was trying to regain his senses.

“Why, boy, do you ask about the lost colonists?” he asked.

“My grandpa said that if I can tell him where the lost colony is, he will take me to the Outer Banks this summer,” Justin explained.

“And what are the Outer Banks?” Raleigh asked.

“That’s sort of where the colonists were before they were lost,” Justin said, surprised that Raleigh didn’t know the answer.

Raleigh paused for a second. “Well, maybe you need to talk to John White. He was the governor of the colony.”

“Where can I find him?” asked Justin.

The shrill noise of the alarm clock woke up the dream traveler, and he had to put off his search until he could find reason to sleep again.

Provided by the NC Press Foundation, Newspapers in Education.

Next week, Chapter 3, Longing for Virginia Dare!

ACTIVITY:

What did Queen Elizabeth say and do to make clear that she had authority? How did the people around her treat her?

What officeholders act with authority today? Identify the officeholders in the news. Cite evidence. What do the officeholders do and how are they treated that show they have authority?

Chapter Three

Longing for Virginia Dare

Sitting in school, Justin fidgeted while looking at the clock, wanting the hands to move faster so he could go home.

Finally home, he rushed through his homework before dinner in hopes of going straight to bed after dessert. He felt a little guilty about wasting time eating dessert, but it was his favorite — apple pie and ice cream.

But dessert was okay, he told himself. He always dreamed more on a full stomach.

Wiping his mouth after the last bite was swallowed, Justin asked if he could leave the table.

“Yes,” Dad said. “There’s still plenty of daylight left to clean the backyard.”

“What?” Justin asked.

“Clean the backyard,” Dad said. “I said if you wanted a dog, then you had to be responsible for cleaning up after it. You haven’t done that in two weeks, so today is the day or Spotty will have to find a new home.”

“Can’t I clean up this weekend?” Justin asked.

“That’s what you said two weeks ago,” Dad said. “No, now!”

Justin walked outside and sat on the stoop. “How can I do this quickly?” he thought. The last time clean up took two hours.

With a mystery to solve, he didn’t want to wait that long before getting back to dream sleuthing.

Ashley and their cousins, Josh and Taylor, came out and sat down beside him.

“You have to clean up the dog stuff, you have to clean the dog stuff, you...” Ashley chanted.



La Virginea Pars, a map of the east coast of North America (c. 1585-87) produced by the Elizabethan artist and gentleman, John White

(P&D 1906,0509.1.3, c. British Museum,)
 © Trustees of the British Museum

The ‘Virginea Pars’ map — often referred to as the John White 1585 map — was painted by John White based on explorations by members of Sir Walter Raleigh’s Roanoke Colony of 1584-1590. It is amazingly accurate given the very basic surveying tools that existed at that time. The original, now housed in the British Museum in London, has patches on it that have been painted over. Questions about the patches raised by UNC professor Brent Lane prompted museum officials to find safe means to view under them. That’s when it was discovered that the northern most patch covered a symbol of a fort on an area of relatively high ground that lies between the Albemarle Sound entrances of the Roanoke and Chowan rivers and another similar symbol, smaller but more elaborate. The faint top symbol is perhaps a later elaboration upon the hidden fort, denoting a settlement - such as the planned ‘Cittie of Raleigh.’ This discovery has created excitement in the history and archaeology worlds and theories that the location might be where the colonists, now known as The Lost Colony, moved after leaving Roanoke Island. The map depicts the coastal area from Chesapeake Bay to Cape Lookout, including the location of many native American villages visited by the colonists. However, until now the map provided little information about the location of Raleigh’s planned ‘Cittie of Raleigh.’”

Suddenly, Justin's frown became a wide grin.

"Ashley, I was going to see if you, Josh and Taylor wanted to play a game with me but since you are being mean..." Justin said nonchalantly.

"We want to play with you," Josh and Taylor said in unison.

"What's the game called, Justin?" Taylor asked.

"Fifteen-minute pick up," Justin said. "Whoever picks up the most dog poop in fifteen minutes, wins."

Ashley kicked at the concrete steps with the toe of her shoe. "I want to play, too," she whined. "And I'm going to beat you! I'm going to be the winner."

Justin found four pairs of gloves and four plastic bags. He handed them out and then shouted, "Go!"

The four players began racing around the yard in search of dog poop piles. At first, finding the mess was easy because the piles were everywhere. They became harder to find, the longer the children played the game.

Within 12 minutes and 29 seconds, all the piles were picked up.

"I won, I won!" Ashley shouted.

Justin was grinning when Dad walked outside. "Justin, I saw what you did. It wasn't nice to take advantage of the younger kids," Dad said. "So, go take your shower and head for bed."

Yes! That is exactly what he wanted to do. Justin was a happy camper.

Sleep didn't come easy. He was too excited about the prospects of meeting John White.

Finally, his dream journey continued.

In the sleep fog, an older man sat on a bench studying a flower.

"Are you John White?" Justin asked.

The startled man jumped and dropped the rose.

"Who are you? Why do you want to know? And wherever did you get those funny clothes?" White asked.

Answering in order, Justin said "I'm Justin, I'm looking for the lost colony so my grandpa will take me to the Outer Banks, and I think Mom bought these pajamas at a local department store."

Looking totally confused, White stared at Justin for a few moments.

“I don’t know where the colonists are now,” White said with a sad tone in his voice. “I was just thinking of my granddaughter, Virginia Dare, and the Harvie baby — wondering if either has survived that untamed land of Virginia.”

Justin shook his head. “No, they weren’t in Virginia, they were in North Carolina,” Justin said.

“You ask me questions and then dispute my answers?” White asked. “The land of Virginia — named for Queen Elizabeth, the Virgin Queen — has no place called North Carol...whatever that place is you mentioned. I know where I left them, and they weren’t to be found when I returned.”

White told Justin that his granddaughter was the first baby born of English parents in the land of Virginia in the Roanoke Colony. He couldn’t remember when Baby Harvie was born, but Virginia was born on Aug. 18, 1587 to his daughter Eleanor and her husband Ananias.

“I left to get supplies, but three years passed before I could return, and little was left of the colony when I arrived back there,” White said. “While I was waiting to return, I carved a fine chair for my granddaughter, so she could visit with me by the fireplace. Now the rocker sits empty.”

“Were there any clues?” Justin asked.

Only a couple, White responded. “There was a signal that we had arranged in case they were taken away against their will, but they didn’t leave that signal so they must have gone willingly. The only clue was a carving in a tree that spelled out...”

Justin suddenly woke up to find Spotty trying to pull the covers off of him. The dog wanted to go outside and sooner rather than later, judging from the amount of tail wagging.

When his feet hit the cold floor, he knew that his dream travel was done until another day.

Provided by the NC Press Foundation, Newspapers in Education.

Next week, Chapter 4, Clue not enough to solve mystery

ACTIVITY:

Emotions shift in this chapter.

How does Justin feel when his father tells him he must clean up the backyard?

How and why do his feelings change, when his sister and cousins come outside?

What is Justin's dad feeling when he tells Justin to go to bed?

How does Justin feel about going to bed?

How does John White feel? Why?

At the end of the chapter, when he wakes up, what do you think Justin feels? Why?

Find examples of photos, illustrations and/or words in print or digital newspapers that match the feelings in this chapter. Explain your choices.

Chapter Four

Clue not enough to solve mystery

The classroom was hot with the sun streaming through the windows onto Justin. The heat was making him nod off from time to time, but he fought sleep. No sense in wasting sleep when he wouldn't have enough time to dream travel before the bell rang.

Finally, the shrill sound signaled time to go to the next period's class. Today, he was excited because the bell meant he was going to study hall in the library.

Entering the double doors, Justin headed for the nearest computer to see if he could shortcut his search for the lost colony by using the Internet. The idea came from his sister Jessica after he explained his mission.

"Just type in 'what clues did the lost colony leave?' and hit enter," Jessica told him.

Justin followed the directions and up popped a list of websites — one might give him exactly what he needed.

After opening several websites, he found two clues left behind by the colonists: "CROATAN" carved on a post and "CRO" carved into a tree.

John White had said that there was a carving on a tree. He must have been talking about "CRO," Justin thought.

But what do the clues mean? Was the language strange or in code?

He decided to see if the computer could once again provide an answer.

"CROATAN?" he typed into the search bar.

Wikipedia offered more clues. It said that the "...Croatan were a small Native American group living in the coastal areas of what is now North Carolina. They may have been a branch of the larger Roanoke people or allied with them....The Roanoke and Croatan were believed to have been on good terms with English settlers of the Roanoke Colony."



Lost Colony actors reenact the scene when John White discovered CRO, carved into a tree, a clue left behind by the missing colonists. Photo courtesy The Lost Colony.

And there was Manteo — a Croatoan — who was a chief of the Croatans. Surely he would know something important!

That was it! Justin thought. He would try to find Manteo — he might know how the lost colony disappeared and where the settlers went.

Later that night, Justin was stretched across his bed doing homework while Jessica and younger sister Jenna lay on the floor playing a board game. Jenna didn't often talk — she could speak but usually just chose to be

a silent onlooker.

“You have stuff under your bed,” Jenna said. “I don’t have things under mine.”

Annoyed by her observation, Justin replied, “Well, good for you, smarty pants. I’ll clean it out sometime.”

He closed his math textbook. “Okay, I’m going to bed so find another floor to lie on,” he barked at his sisters.

Gathering up the game pieces, the girls started leaving the room. “You should clean under your bed,” Jenna said as her parting shot.

Justin hurried through his bedtime routine and then settled in under the sheet. He was going to look for Manteo.

Provided by the NC Press Foundation, Newspapers in Education.

Next week, Chapter 5, Manteo, man of few words

ACTIVITY:

Follow Jessica’s advice. Search the Internet, using the question, “What clues did the lost colony leave?” What do you learn from the search? What are the theories? What evidence is given to support each theory? What are the sources?

Search stories archived in your newspaper’s electronic or e-edition about the Lost Colony, Hatteras and/or the Outer Banks (or Raleigh). Use other key words that may lead to stories about coastal issues. What current news and information do you find about the area? What are the sources?

Chapter Five

Manteo, man of few words

Justin's plan to find Manteo through dream travel hadn't worked out the night before. Just as he began drifting into sleep, thunder and lightning shook the house and lit up the sky.

When he finally did go to sleep, it was fitful and more tiring than refreshing. Waking up to the alarm, he felt as though he had spent the last few hours running hard.

The school day dragged on forever and ever. The teachers' voices seemed to hum in his ears like a swarm of bees and were about as welcome.

He couldn't wait to get home and start looking for Manteo. All he had to do was stay awake long enough to make it through the day.

But the day seemed it would never end. And then he arrived home to find out that there was company.

"Justin, wanna play tag?" Taylor asked. He and Josh had come to spend the night.

"Naw, I'm too tired," Justin said.

"Go ahead outside and play," his mother said. "The fresh air will do you good. And, besides, Josh and Taylor have looked forward to seeing you."

Ashley grinned at Justin. "You are just afraid that we will win! I know I can beat you — you'll see, you will be IT," she said.

He gave in. He knew that if he didn't play with them, his mother would think he was sick and probably end up disturbing his dream travel again.

Finally, after playing tag, with dinner out of the way, homework done and shower completed, Justin settled into the bed, anticipating that he'd find Manteo.

He didn't take long. There, on a tree-lined bank, sat an Indian carving on a piece of oyster shell.

“Are you Manteo?” Justin asked.

Startled, the man jumped to his feet. “Are you one of the English?” he shot back to Justin.

“No, I’m an American, and Dad says we are good Methodists,” Justin answered.

The man looked puzzled. He stared at Justin while he waited to be given more of an explanation.

“I’m looking for the lost colony and thought you might tell me where to find the settlers,” Justin said.

Manteo frowned while he chose the words for his answer. “Why do you think the English are lost?” he asked.

“Well, no one knows where they went,” Justin answered.

“So, shouldn’t the question be ‘why don’t I know where they went?’” Manteo asked. “Why do you think they are lost? They know where they went.”

Justin was stumped for a reply.

“Sir Walter told the Queen that they misplaced themselves,” Justin offered.

Manteo’s face softened at the sound of Sir Walter’s name. “You saw him? And how is my old friend?” he asked. “And Thomas Harriot, did you see him, too? He is the one who taught me how to speak the sounds — the words — that you understand.”

Frustrated, Justin lifted his chin and demanded loudly, “Do you know where the colonists went or not?”

Manteo sat down and resumed his carving. “They are not here in front of us so how could I say exactly where they are?”



An engraving of Algonquian natives by Theodor De Bry based on John White's watercolors. Photo courtesy of the N.C. Department of Cultural Resources

“This was going nowhere,” Justin thought.

“Do you know someone who could help me? I have to find out where the lost colony went before tomorrow. My grandpa said that if I can tell him, he will take me to the Outer Banks,” Justin said with almost a whine in his voice.

Slowly Manteo turned toward Justin and with a smile responded, “You sleep on it.”

And then he turned away.

Hope was gone. Justin couldn’t think of anyone else he could try to find who might be able to help him find the answer.

Provided by NC Press Foundation, Newspapers in Education.

Next week, Chapter 6, ‘You sleep on it’

ACTIVITY:

What do you learn about Manteo from his exchange with Justin?
What do you learn about Justin?

Select a story of interest to you, in the print or digital edition of your newspaper. Circle any direct or indirect quotes that you find in the story. What do you learn about one or more people from the direct and indirect quotes?

Chapter Six

'You sleep on it'

Justin woke up early and stayed in the bed while he tried to come up with a solution to his problem.

Grandpa was coming by today and would be expecting an answer about where the lost colony could be found. Justin had no answer but really wanted to go visit the Outer Banks.

Jessica quietly opened the door just wide enough to peek in to see if he were awake.

Seeing that his eyes were open and he was staring at the ceiling, she entered the room. That turned out to be a dangerous move as she found out when she tripped over his baseball bat. She quickly regained her balance and announced that breakfast was ready.

He didn't respond. Didn't she know that he failed his mission and was never going to eat again? Couldn't she see that there are more important things to do than worry about breakfast?

"Justin, didn't you hear me?" Jessica asked. "Mom made blueberry pancakes and she said we can put whipped cream on them."

"I'm not hungry," he said as he rolled toward the wall.

"What's up with you? Are you sick?" Jessica asked.

"I really wanted to go with Grandpa to the Outer Banks and now he won't take me," Justin said.

"Well, if you aren't going to eat, why don't you clean out under your bed," Jessica said.

Really, he thought. She really thinks that by cleaning my room, I'm going to feel better.

Jessica left the room while chuckling to herself.

"She is happy that I'm not going to be able to go. She's just plain mean," he said aloud.

By lunchtime, his stomach was growling, and he was tired of looking at

the inside of his room.

When he entered the kitchen, his mother said, “Well, there you are. Sorry you missed the pancakes. Want a grilled cheese and some soup?”

Justin nodded his head. Josh, Taylor, Ashley and Jenna were sitting around the table, eating sandwiches and playing Trouble.

“Wanna play?” Josh asked.

“No,” Justin replied immediately.

“Why are you so sad?” Taylor asked.

Justin explained his disappointment at his failed mission.

The younger children grinned at Justin.

“You sleep on it,” Josh advised.

“I have slept on it — night after night!” Justin shouted. “I can’t sleep my way to the Outer Banks!”

Grandpa’s voice interrupted the conversation. “Hello, anyone home?”

“We’re in the kitchen,” Justin’s mom said.

Justin hung his head. He didn’t want to tell Grandpa that he couldn’t find the answer.

Jenna looked at her brother’s sad face and took pity on him. She left the table and took him by the hand and began leading him up the stairs.

“What are you doing?” Justin asked.



The Final Assembly is the last scene in outdoor drama The Lost Colony during which the colonists are depicted by actors as frantic in their desire to leave Roanoke Island in search of a better place to settle. Photo courtesy of The Lost Colony Archives.

“Don’t be sad,” Jenna said, as she pulled him into his room. “Clean out under your bed.”

“Why would that make me happy? What’s wrong with you?” Justin said. Jenna leaned down, reached under the bed and handed him a book about The Lost Colony.

“Now, you clean out the rest of it,” she said and walked out of the room. Justin thumbed quickly through the book but found no answers about where the lost colony went. “Where did the book come from?” he thought.

Kneeling on the floor, he bent down and looked where Jenna had reached.

He pulled out a large white envelope that was addressed to Grandpa. The return address was from The Lost Colony, Waterside Theatre, Roanoke Island, NC. That was part of the Outer Banks! Justin said to himself.

A note from Grandpa was written on the front: “Don’t you think this drama would be fun? It tells about the Roanoke Colony that disappeared.”

Justin opened the envelope and two tickets to the play were inside.

Also inside was a brochure with a picture of a woman and a baby. The baby must be John White’s granddaughter, Virginia Dare, Justin thought.

Justin began reading the inside of the booklet.

The Lost Colony preparing for another season!

“More than 400 years ago, 117 men, women and children sailed from Plymouth, England in an attempt to settle on Roanoke Island; they vanished just two years later. Only two clues were left behind. CROATOAN was carved into a post, and CRO, into a tree. The Lost Colony tells the settlers’ story.

“Written by Pulitzer-prize winning playwright Paul Green, The Lost Colony outdoor symphonic drama is performed summer nights as a way to celebrate and remember the nation’s history.”

He’d finally found it -- The Lost Colony! Grandpa had said “you sleep on it,” but he didn’t mean to try to find it in dreams. He meant the answer was under the bed where Justin slept.

And Jessica, Taylor, Josh, Ashley and Jenna weren’t being brats. They

were trying to point Justin in the right direction.

But one question still remained. How did Manteo know the answer was under Justin's bed?

Justin would have to "sleep on" that question.

Provided by the N.C. Press Foundation, Newspapers in Education.

The end

ACTIVITY:

In Chapter One, what did Justin (and you) think Grandpa meant when he told Justin to solve the mystery of the Lost Colony by "sleeping on it?" In Chapter Six, what did Justin find out Grandpa meant when he said, "sleep on it?"

What does Justin mean when he says he will "sleep on" how Manteo knew what was under his bed?

Comment on the news by identifying an issue that you'd advise leaders to "sleep on" before making policy decisions. Explain.

Where is the Lost Colony? a six-chapter serial story by Sandy Semans

Sandy Semans provides the following background information for each of six-chapters of her serial story.

Chapter 1

Who was Sir Walter Raleigh or was it Raleigh?

In the 1500's it was not unusual to find a single word or name spelled multiple ways, and so it was with Sir Walter's last name. Raleigh is the spelling he most often used. He was an explorer, writer, poet, soldier, spy and courtier and a favorite of Queen Elizabeth, daughter of King Henry the Eighth.

His 1584 plan was to colonize the "Dominion of Virginia" — today the States of North Carolina and Virginia — eventually led to the 1587 arrival of colonists to Roanoke Island. Those colonists would later be referred to as The Lost Colony after they disappeared.

He lived from 1554 to 1618 when he was executed at the direction of King James I for attacking a Spanish outpost in South America while exploring there for gold.

Chapter 2

Who was Queen Elizabeth?

Queen Elizabeth, daughter of King Henry VIII and Anne Boleyn, never married and was thus called The Virgin Queen, which was the inspiration for calling the New World "Virginia." She lived from 1533 and died in 1603.

She ruled England for 45 years. During her reign, she held the country together through war and peace and encouraged exploration as a way of enlarging her domain. The Queen felt special affection for Sir Walter but, over the years, they had more than one period of friction.

Chapter 3

Who was John White?

John White was an artist and mapmaker. The maps of the coastline of the New World that he painted were extraordinarily accurate. In recent years, historians discovered the symbol of a fort under a patch on the original map. They theorize that this area between the mouths of the Roanoke and Chowan rivers may have been explored by White for the possible location of a fort and could have been where the colonists moved.

Appointed governor of the Roanoke Colony, White led the expedition that settled several families on Roanoke Island in 1587. The colony included his own daughter and her husband, Eleanor and Ananias Dare, the parents of Virginia Dare who is believed to be the first English child born in the New World.

White returned to England for more supplies that same year and planned to return the following year. But after he arrived back in England, the Queen ordered all vessels to remain there to defend the country against the Spanish Armada. England claimed victory over the Spanish fleet in 1588, and ships were allowed to sail. But White's return to Roanoke Island was held up for two more years because the captains of the small fleet with which he sailed decided to detour and first search for riches in Cuba. When the vessels arrived at Roanoke Island, the colonists had gone. The threat of a large storm prompted the captains to refuse to take White to look for the colonists. He died just three years later, never having seen his granddaughter again.

Why was the area called Virginia and not North Carolina?

The Dominion of Virginia claimed by England in the mid-1500s included what is now called North Carolina.

In 1712, King Charles II gave a large area of the New World to the Lord Proprietors as a reward for helping him regain the throne in 1660. He named the new province "Carolina" in memory of his father, King Charles I who was executed in 1649 at the end of the English Civil War. The name Charles, in Latin, is Carolus.

The Province of Carolina was split in 1729 into what became North Carolina and South Carolina.

Chapter 4

Who were the Croatoans?

The Croatoans were members of the Croatan tribe who lived on Croatan Island. Both the tribe and the island were later known as Hatteras. Other than what can be gleaned from John White's pictures about the Native Americans, little is known about them or the many other small tribes who lived in the region. The English brought many diseases that the Indians had no immunity to, and thus many died of typhoid, measles and other contagious diseases. The tribes were part of the Algonquin Nation.

Chapter 5

Who was Manteo?

Manteo was the chief of the Croatan tribe and friend of the English explorers who landed at Roanoke Island in 1584. He visited England in 1584 and 1585 and returned to the New World in 1587 along with Governor John White and the colonists who eventually became known as The Lost Colony. On Aug. 13, 1587, Manteo was christened on Roanoke Island, making him the first Indian to be baptized into the Church of England. He was granted the title of baron, the Lord of Roanoke and Dasamongueponke (Native American tribe and village) and served as a guide and translator for the English. There is no known record of him after 1587, and no one knows whether he left Roanoke Island with the colonists when they abandoned the site.

Who was Thomas Hariot?

Thomas Hariot (also spelled Harriott and Harriot) lived from about 1560 to 1621. He was an explorer, scientist, and author who compiled and published information about the New World. He was part of the second expedition to the area in 1585 and may have participated in early visits. During the 1585 expedition, he and John White worked together to produce maps, drawings and scientific notes about the New World. Unfortunately much of their work was lost when they retreated from the area and endured a sudden hurricane.

After arriving back in England in 1585, Hariot worked to learn the Algonquin language from Manteo who had gone to England with the expedition. When he was finished, Hariot had created a written phonetic version of the language that allowed others to learn it. Manteo also learned English, which allowed him to act as a translator for the Indians and the English upon his return to Roanoke Island.

Chapter 6

What is *The Lost Colony* outdoor symphonic drama?

First produced by the Roanoke Island Historical Association on July 4, 1937, *The Lost Colony* was part of the celebration of the 350th anniversary of the arrival of the first English settlers in the New World in 1612. Pulitzer Prize-winning author Paul Green took on the job of writing the new play, which he envisioned as combining drama, music, dance and pageantry, all in a sweeping outdoor setting. He called his creation *The Lost Colony: A Symphonic Drama of American History*.

In the midst of the Great Depression, local residents and several state and federal agencies had to combine efforts and resources to provide what the drama needed. Civilian Conservation Corps workers built the open-air Waterside Theatre where the play was performed, and the Rockefeller Foundation gave an organ to provide musical accompaniment. The Playmakers of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill provided lighting and other technical assistance and also supplied the director, Samuel Selden. Actors came from the Federal Theatre Project and the local population.

Getting to Roanoke Island in 1937 involved a ferry ride, several miles on a “floating road” over a swamp, and travel the rest of the way on packed-sand roads. The easier route from the west consisted of miles of graded-dirt roads and two ferry trips. But about 2,500 attended the first performance. By the end of the summer, attendance stood at about 50,000, including President Franklin Roosevelt. Originally, the play was expected to run just that summer, but it proved to be so popular and such a boon to the local economy that it returned in 1938. The next season 100,000 people attended the performance. Except during World War II, *The Lost Colony* has played every summer. It has been a training ground for young actors and theater technicians. Alumni include Andy Griffith, Chris Elliot, Eileen Fulton, Carl Kasell, William Ivey Long and Joe Layton.

Written by Sandy Semans, editor, Outer Banks Sentinel, to supplement the six-chapter serial story, *Where is The Lost Colony?*

The Outer Banks

For centuries, first the Indians and then the white colonists, had to adapt to the ever-changing conditions on what today is called the Outer Banks.

The thin ribbon of sand that forms the chain of islands known as the Outer Banks is bounded on the east by the Atlantic Ocean and on the west by the sounds. The shapes of the islands and the inlets that run between them continue to be altered by hurricanes, nor'easters and other weather events.

Accessing the ocean and the sounds was accomplished primarily by inlets that often proved to be moving targets as inlets were formed and then later filled with sand and disappeared. Maps of the coastline show many places named "New Inlet" although there is no inlet currently in those places.

The one exception has been Ocracoke Inlet between Ocracoke and Portsmouth islands. Marine geologists estimate that the existing Inlet, with some minor changes, has been in place for at least 2500 years.



In his speech given when he attended The Lost Colony in 1937, President Franklin Roosevelt announced the creation of the first-ever National Seashore, Cape Hatteras National Seashore. Although it wasn't until in the early 1950s before the government began buying properties needed to create the Seashore, in preparation, NPS took hundreds of photographs of the area in 1937. Photos show a view looking west across to Roanoke Island from Nags Head. Note the absence of summer cottages along the ocean side. Locals always built on the sound side because of storms and over wash. The indentation shown on Roanoke Island's shoreline is Shallowbag Bay, which the Town of Manteo is built around. National Park Service (NPS) Archives, Fort Raleigh, provided by Sandy Seamans.

During the English exploration of the 1500's, most likely the ships came through the Ocracoke inlet, making it a long sail to Roanoke Island. At that time, there was a small shallow inlet between Hatteras and Ocracoke islands but probably was avoided for fear of going aground. By the early 1700s, that shallow inlet had filled in and the two islands were then just one long one.



This 1937 photo, taken by an employee of the National Park Service, shows what is now Whalebone Junction in Nags Head and the bridge that connected it to Roanoke Island. Now, there are homes on the first and the second islands. On the north side of the bridge, is Pirate's Cove development, which includes homes, condos, a marina and a charter boat fleet. National Park Service (NPS) Archives, Fort Raleigh, provided by Sandy Seamans.

But in 1846, a hurricane created two major inlets. One, now called Oregon Inlet, sliced through the sand, leaving today's Pea Island to the south and Bodie Island to the north. And a the second inlet, now known as Hatteras Inlet, once again separated Hatteras Island from Ocracoke Island. Both inlets are still used by vessels, but sometimes there are problems with shoaling which makes passage treacherous.

The creation of inlets is not just a yesteryear phenomenon. In 2003, Hurricane Isabel created an inlet between the villages of Buxton and Hatteras that was filled in by the North Carolina Department of Transportation, so that services and access could be restored to Hatteras village.

In August 2011, Hurricane Irene created two inlets, one on Pea Island and another at Mirlo Beach, just north of the village of Rodanthe on Hatteras Island. The latter was promptly filled in but NC 12, the only road access to the island, also was cut through on Pea Island. The

road was closed for about two months while a temporary bridge was installed. Discussions continue on when, where and how to build a permanent bridge over the area.

Nearby, according to maps, is one of those places named New Inlet, but whatever was there has come and gone because that is how life goes on the Outer Banks.

Sandy Semans, writer, editor and resident of the Outer Banks