

**INTRODUCTION TO THE
HISTORY OF THE
COLONY AND ANCIENT
DOMINION OF VIRGINIA**

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Introduction to the History of the Colony and Ancient Dominion of Virginia by Charles Campbell

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**IN ONE VOLUME.**  
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HISTORY OF VIRGINIA.

CHAPTER I.

1492-1591.

Early voyages of Discovery; Madoc; The Northmen; Columbus; John Cabot; Sebastian Cabot; Sir Humphrey Gilbert; Walter Raleigh; Expedition of Amidas and Barlow; They land on Wocoon Island; They return to England; The new country named Virginia; Grenville's Expedition; Colony of Roanoke; Lane Governor; The Colony abandoned; Tobacco; Grenville returns to Virginia; Leaves a small Colony at Roanoke; Sir Walter Raleigh sends out another Expedition; City of Raleigh Chartered; White Governor; Roanoke found deserted; Virginia Dare, first child born in the Colony; White returns for supplies; The Armada; Raleigh assigns the Colony to a Company; White returns to Virginia; Finds the Colony extinct; Death of Sir Richard Grenville.

The discoveries attributed to Madoc, the Welsh prince, have afforded a theme for the creations of poetry; those of the Northmen of Iceland, better authenticated, still engage the dim researches of antiquarian curiosity. The glory of having made the first certain discovery of the New World, belongs to Columbus. It was, however, the good fortune of the Cabots, to be the first who actually reached the main land. It was in 1492, that the Genoese navigator first landed on the shores of St. Salvador. [1497.] Giovanni Gaboto, in English, John Cabot, a Venetian merchant, resident at Bristol, with his son, Sebastian, a native of that city, having obtained a patent from Henry VII., sailed under his flag and discovered the main continent of America, amid the inhospitable rigors of the wintry North. It was more than a year subsequent, that Columbus, in his third voyage, set his foot on the main land of the South. [1498.] Sebastian Cabot again crossed the Atlantic and coasted from the 58th degree of North latitude, along the shores of the United States, perhaps as far as to the Southern boundary of Maryland.

Portuguese, French and Spanish navigators now visited North America, with what motives, adventures and success, it is not necessary to relate here. [1583.] Sir Humphrey Gilbert, commissioned by Queen Elizabeth and assisted by his half-brother, Walter Raleigh, fitted out a small fleet and made a voyage to Newfoundland, where he landed and took formal possession of the country. This intrepid navigator embarking to return in the Squirrel, a vessel of only ten tons, was lost in a storm. When last seen by the company of the Hind, Sir Humphrey, although surrounded by imminent perils, was seated calmly on deck, with a book in his hand, and was heard to exclaim, "Be of good cheer, my friends, it is as near to Heaven by sea as by land."

Not daunted by the fate of his heroic kinsman, Raleigh persisted in the design of effecting a settlement in America, and being now high in the Queen's favor, obtained letters patent for that purpose, dated March 25th, 1584. Aided by some gentlemen and merchants, particularly by his gallant kinsmen, Sir Richard Grenville, and Mr. William Sanderson who had married his niece, Raleigh succeeded in providing two small vessels. These were put under command of Captains Philip Amidas and Arthur Barlow. Barlow had already served with distinction under Raleigh in Ireland. The two vessels left the Thames on the 27th of April, 1584. Pursuing the old circuitous route by the Canaries, they reached the West Indies. After a short stay there, they sailed North, and early in July, as they approached the coast of Florida, the mariners were regaled with the odors of a thousand flowers wafted from the fragrant shore. Amidas and Barlow, passing one hundred and twenty miles farther, landed on the island of Wocoon, * in the stormy re-

* See in "Memorials of North Carolina," by J. Sewell Jones, a graphic description of this island, and of the circumstances of the landing there. This writer, who evinces

gion of Cape Hatteras, one of a long series of narrow, low, sandy islands, which seem like breast-works to defend the main land from the fury of the ocean. The English took possession of the country in the Queen's name. The valleys were wooded with tall cedars, overrun with vines hung in rich festoons, the grapes clustering in profusion on the ground and trailing in the sea. For two days no inhabitant was seen; on the third a canoe with three men approached. One of them was readily persuaded to come aboard, when some presents gained his confidence. Going away he began to fish, and having loaded his canoe returned, and dividing his cargo into two parts, signified that one was for the ship, the other for the pinnace. On the next day they received a visit from some canoes, in which were forty or fifty men, amongst whom was Granganameo, the King's brother. The King, Wingina, himself lay at his chief town, six miles distant, confined by severe wounds received in a recent battle. Here the English were hospitably entertained by the wife of Granganameo. She was small, pretty and bashful, clothed in a leathern mantle with the fur turned in; her long black hair was restrained by a band of white coral; strings of pearl hung from her ears and reached to her waist. The disposition of the natives seemed gentle, their manners easy; presents and traffic soon conciliated their good will. The country was called Wingandacoo; the soil was found rich; the air mild and salubrious; the forests abounded with a variety of "sweet-smelling trees" and oaks superior in size to those of England. Fruits, melons, nuts and esculent roots were observed; the woods were stocked with game and the waters with innumerable fish and wild fowl. After having examined as much of the interior as their time would permit, Amidas and Barlow sailed homeward, accompanied by two of the natives, Manteo and Wanchese. Queen Elizabeth, charmed with the glowing descriptions of the new country, which the enthusiastic adventurers gave her on their return, named it, in allusion to her own state

a fine genius, vindicates his native State, against what he conceived to be the unjust and arrogant claims of Virginia. His argument would have lost none of its force by the omission of the spleenetic and invidious remarks in which he indulges. There is no real ground of jealousy between these two States. The recollections of Sir Walter Raleigh's Colony belong equally to both.

of life, VIRGINIA.* Raleigh was shortly after returned to parliament from the county of Devon and about the same period knighted. The Queen granted him also a patent to license the vending of wines throughout the kingdom. Such a monopoly was part of the arbitrary system of that day. Nor was Sir Walter unconscious of its injustice, for when some years afterwards a spirit of resistance to it showed itself in the House of Commons, and a member was warmly inveighing against it, Sir Walter was observed to blush. Yet he voted for the abolition of such monopolies, and no one could have made a more munificent use of such emoluments, than he did in carrying out his grand schemes of the discovery and colonization of Virginia.

[1585.] He fitted out a fleet of seven vessels for that country, and entrusted the command of it to his relative, Sir Richard Grenville. This gallant officer had, like the celebrated Cervantes, shared in the famous battle of Lepanto, and after distinguishing himself by his conduct during the Irish rebellion, had become a conspicuous member of parliament. Grenville was accompanied by Thomas Candish, or Cavendish, afterwards renowned as a circumnavigator of the globe—Thomas Hariot, a friend of Raleigh and a profound mathematician, and John With, an artist, whose pencil supplied materials for the illustration of the works of De Bry and Beverley. On the 26th of June, the fleet anchored at Wococon, but the navigation there being found too perilous, they proceeded through Ocracock inlet to the island of Roanoke, (at the mouth of Albemarle Sound,) which they selected as the seat of the Colony. The colonists one hundred and eight in number were landed. Manteo, who had returned with them, had already been sent from Wococon, to announce their arrival to his king, Wingina. Grenville, accompanied by Lane, Hariot, Cavendish and others, explored the coast for eighty miles southward, to the town of Secotan, in the present county of Craven,

* Smith's History of Virginia, 11. Tyler's Life of Sir Walter Raleigh: Edit. in Greenbank's Periodical Lib. Bancroft's History of the United States, 1 cap. 1, § 3. Beverley's History of Virginia, B. 1, p. 2. Smith's History of Virginia, B. 1, p. 79-83. Early History of Rhode Island, 179-181.

Mazze's account of the early settlement of Virginia in the commencement of his Recherches sur les Etats-Unis abounds in errors. Yet this work was written expressly for the purpose of correcting the errors of other writers.