

**A BRIEF AND TRUE  
RELATION OF THE  
DISCOVERIE OF THE  
NORTH PART OF VIRGINIA**

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A briefe and true relation of the discoverie of the north part of Virginia by John Brereton

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BRERETON'S "RELATION," 1602

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*This Edition is limited to Five Hundred and Twenty  
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A Briefe and True Relation of  
the Discouerie of the North  
Part of

VIRGINIA

By JOHN BRERETON

Reproduced in *Facsimile* from the First  
Edition of 1602

*With an Introductory Note by*  
LUTHER S. LIVINGSTON

NEW YORK  
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1903





## Introductory Note

THE little book reproduced on the succeeding pages is the account, by one of the men of the expedition, of the first voyage of Englishmen to the shores of New England. Captain Gosnold and thirty-two others set sail from Falmouth on Friday, March 26, 1602, and made their first landing on Cape Cod, which they so named on account of the great abundance of fish found there. This was the first English name given to any part of the New England coast. They also discovered and named the Island of Martha's Vineyard. The small number in the party made the establishment of a colony impossible, and no extensive explorations were undertaken. They set out on their return on June 18, again on a Friday, and arrived safely in the harbor of Exmouth on July 23. This hasty voyage was the true beginning of New England.

Captain Gosnold was afterwards second in command in the little fleet which set sail for Virginia on December 20, 1606, under Captain Christopher Newport, and was a member of "His Majestie's Counsel of His First Colony in Virginia." He died there on August 22, 1607.

Brereton, the author of the narrative, may have held some minor office, at least he was one of the five men in the first boat which landed on Cape Cod. "Captain Bartholomew Gosnold, my selfe, and three others, went ashore," is the way he describes (on page 4) the landing of the first Englishmen on the shores of New England. Little or nothing is known of his after history, unless he be the same John Brereton who was convicted of manslaughter and

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## Introductory Note

pardoned in 1611, or the John Brereton who sought a license to keep an inn in Chester in 1613.

On page 14 is a little note of the fruitless voyage of Captain Samuel Mace, the same year, to Virginia by Raleigh's orders, to search for the lost colony at Roanoke. The "larger discourse" seems never to have "come to light," and but little is known of the voyage.

Captain Edward Hayes, the author of the "Treatise," described on the title, and which fills pages 15 to 24, was not, apparently, of the party, though he had himself been one of the pioneers in American colonization, having commanded the *Golden Hinde*, the companion to Sir Humphrey Gilbert's ill-fated ship, in the expedition to Newfoundland in 1583.

Two editions of the *Relation* were published in 1602. Of the first, which is the one reproduced, only three copies seem to be known. One was in the library of the late Lord Chancellor Hardwicke, being bound in with eleven other rare tracts, mostly relating to America. When his library was dispersed at Christie's in 1888, the volume brought £555. The Brereton from the collection is now in the John Carter-Brown Library in Providence. The second, from which our reproduction is made, belongs to Mr. E. D. Church, of New York. The third, which lacks title-page, is owned in England.

This first edition contains 24 pages only. The second has 48 pages and has the additional lines on the title-page: "With diuers instructions of speciall moment/ newly added in this second im-/pression." Of this second issue four copies can be traced in this country:

1. The fine Isham copy, entirely uncut, bought by Quaritch in the Isham sale in 1886 for £265. This afterwards belonged to the late Mr. Charles H. Kalbfleisch and to Mr. M. C. Lefferts. It now belongs to Mr. E. D. Church.

2. The Brinley copy, bought in that sale by Mr. Kalbfleisch, who, after the Isham sale, sold it to Messrs. Dodd,

## Introductory Note

Mead & Co., from whose hands it passed into Mr. Church's collection. Since Mr. Church has secured the Isham-Kalbfleisch-Lefferts copy, the Brinley-Kalbfleisch copy has in turn gone to Mr. E. E. Ayer, of Chicago.

3. The Barlow copy, which at that sale in 1890 brought \$1,125 and is now in the New York Public Library, Lenox Collection.

4. A copy in the John Carter-Brown Library in Providence.

There are three copies of the second edition in the British Museum, one, in the Grenville collection, very imperfect.

L. S. L.