

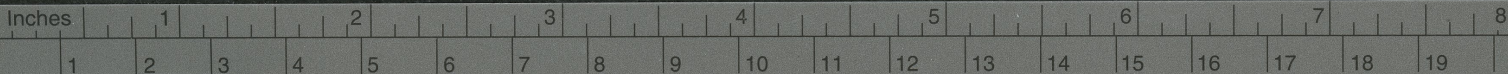
Raleigh's Colony on Roanoke Island.

1584-1590.

How little is known by the majority of Americans of this first most interesting endeavour to plant the English race in the soil of the New World! We are familiar with the landing of the Spaniards at St. Augustine, with the romantic adventures of Captain John Smith at Jamestown, and with the arrival of the Mayflower at Plymouth; but this early attempt at colonization, with all its interesting incidents, has been allowed to sink almost into oblivion.

In this year of the Great Columbian Exhibition at Chicago, it is especially important not to lose sight of the fact that Columbus did not discover the Continent of North America, and that the United States owe nothing to Spanish civilization. That influence was to mould the destiny of the peoples who gathered in the New World south of the Gulf of Mexico; but John Cabot was the first to set foot within the present borders of our great Republic, and it is to English moral standards, English political ideas, and English civil and religious liberty that we owe the manifold blessings which we now enjoy, and to which we must gratefully ascribe the marvellous progress and prosperity of our beloved country.

No spot then should be dearer to us than that which in the year 1584 was marked by the first foot prints of the English race on this Continent, and where three years later the first white American child was born. The first adventurers, who remained in the country only two months, found at the northern end of the Island of Roanoke a fortified Indian village. Returning to England with two of the natives, they excited great interest; Sir Walter Raleigh named the new country Virginia in honour of the Queen, and a second expedition of more than one hundred persons, under Sir Richard Grenville, a cousin of Raleigh, was sent out in 1585. Grenville left the colony at Roanoke under command of Ralph Lane and returning to Europe fell soon after in battle with the Spaniards. This colony, after a brief and troublous existence, after many a hard fight with the Indians, and many exciting adventures in exploring the shores of Albemarle



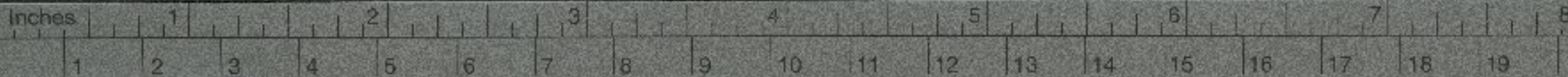
Raleigh's Colony on Roanoke Island.

1584-1590.

How little is known by the majority of Americans of this first most interesting endeavour to plant the English race in the soil of the New World! We are familiar with the landing of the Spaniards at St. Augustine, with the romantic adventures of Captain John Smith at Jamestown, and with the arrival of the Mayflower at Plymouth; but this early attempt at colonization, with all its interesting incidents, has been allowed to sink almost into oblivion.

In this year of the Great Columbian Exhibition at Chicago, it is especially important not to lose sight of the fact that Columbus did not discover the Continent of North America, and that the United States owe nothing to Spanish civilization. That influence was to mould the destiny of the peoples who gathered in the New World south of the Gulf of Mexico; but John Cabot was the first to set foot within the present borders of our great Republic, and it is to English moral standards, English political ideas, and English civil and religious liberty that we owe the manifold blessings which we now enjoy, and to which we must gratefully ascribe the marvellous progress and prosperity of our beloved country.

No spot then should be dearer to us than that which in the year 1584 was marked by the first foot prints of the English race on this Continent, and where three years later the first white American child was born. The first adventurers, who remained in the country only two months, found at the northern end of the Island of Roanoke a fortified Indian village. Returning to England with two of the natives, they excited great interest; Sir Walter Raleigh named the new country Virginia in honour of the Queen, and a second expedition of more than one hundred persons, under Sir Richard Grenville, a cousin of Raleigh, was sent out in 1585. Grenville left the colony at Roanoke under command of Ralph Lane and returning to Europe fell soon after in battle with the Spaniards. This colony, after a brief and troublous existence, after many a hard fight with the Indians, and many exciting adventures in exploring the shores of Albemarle

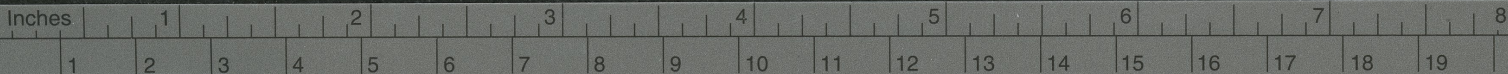


and Pamlico Sounds, was also abandoned. Lane returned to England from what he called his "new Fort in Virginia" in the summer of 1586, and thus ended the first settlement of Englishmen in America.

Not discouraged by this failure, in 1587 Raleigh fitted out another expedition of one hundred men and seventeen women, which was intended for the shores of the Chesapeake: but they likewise established themselves on Roanoke Island, and soon after their arrival Virginia Dare was born to one of the colonists, and Manteo, the faithful Indian Chief, was baptized into the English Church, and given the title of Lord of Roanoke. This is the lost colony whose fate has given rise to so much speculation. It was three years before any succour arrived from the Old World; for in the meantime England had needed every ship and every sailor in her life and death struggle with Spain and the Invincible Armada; and when at last a rescuing party reached the Island, their trumpet-call received no answer, and landing they found no memorial of the colony but silent graves, a palisaded fort, and carved on a tree at its entrance the word CROATOAN.

For more than half a century the name of this settlement, the so-called "City of Raleigh," disappears from our annals; until in 1654 a company of explorers from Virginia reached Roanoke and saw what they termed "the ruins of Sir Walter Raleigh's fort." This was a bastioned post of irregular shape about forty yards square, and its present condition is thus described in Harper's Magazine for May, 1860. "The trench is clearly traceable in a square of about forty yards each way. Midway of one side another trench, perhaps flanking the gateway, runs inward some fifteen or twenty feet. On the right of the same face of the enclosure the corner is apparently thrown out in the form of a small bastion. The ditch is generally two feet deep, though in many places scarcely perceptible. The whole site is overgrown with pine, live oak, vines, and a variety of other plants high and low. A flourishing oak draped with vines stands sentinel near the centre. A fragment or two of stone or brick may be discovered in the grass, and then all is told of the existing relics of the City of Raleigh."

A tract of about two hundred and fifty acres of land on the north-east corner of the Island, including these most interesting historic remains, is now offered for sale at \$1,500. The time has

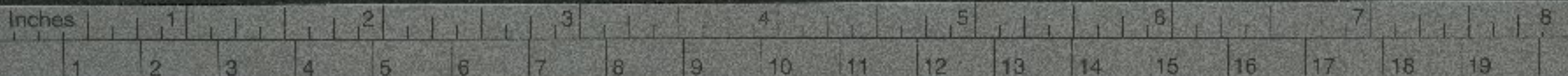


and Pamlico Sounds, was also abandoned. Lane returned to England from what he called his "new Fort in Virginia" in the summer of 1586, and thus ended the first settlement of Englishmen in America.

Not discouraged by this failure, in 1587 Raleigh fitted out another expedition of one hundred men and seventeen women, which was intended for the shores of the Chesapeake; but they likewise established themselves on Roanoke Island, and soon after their arrival Virginia Dare was born to one of the colonists, and Manteo, the faithful Indian Chief, was baptized into the English Church, and given the title of Lord of Roanoke. This is the lost colony whose fate has given rise to so much speculation. It was three years before any succour arrived from the Old World; for in the meantime England had needed every ship and every sailor in her life and death struggle with Spain and the Invincible Armada; and when at last a rescuing party reached the Island, their trumpet-call received no answer, and landing they found no memorial of the colony but silent graves, a palisaded fort, and carved on a tree at its entrance the word CROATOAN.

For more than half a century the name of this settlement, the so-called "City of Raleigh," disappears from our annals; until in 1654 a company of explorers from Virginia reached Roanoke and saw what they termed "the ruins of Sir Walter Raleigh's fort." This was a bastioned post of irregular shape about forty yards square, and its present condition is thus described in Harper's Magazine for May, 1860. "The trench is clearly traceable in a square of about forty yards each way. Midway of one side another trench, perhaps flanking the gateway, runs inward some fifteen or twenty feet. On the right of the same face of the enclosure the corner is apparently thrown out in the form of a small bastion. The ditch is generally two feet deep, though in many places scarcely perceptible. The whole site is overgrown with pine, live oak, vines, and a variety of other plants high and low. A flourishing oak draped with vines stands sentinel near the centre. A fragment or two of stone or brick may be discovered in the grass, and then all is told of the existing relics of the City of Raleigh."

A tract of about two hundred and fifty acres of land on the north-east corner of the Island, including these most interesting historic remains, is now offered for sale at \$1,500. The time has



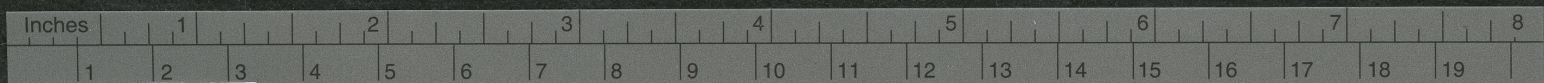
surely come when this sacred spot should pass into the possession of a corporate body of men who will rescue the fort from further decay, and who will see that it shall remain intact for all time to come. It is proposed to organize a company which will issue two hundred shares of stock at twenty-five dollars per share. With this sum the purchase can be made, and a small annual income left with which to preserve and protect the property. The shores moreover offer valuable fishing and shooting privileges, which may be made a source of revenue, and portions of the land not needed for the purpose of the company may be sold.

All to whom this circular is sent are earnestly requested to show it to others who may be interested in the patriotic project, and to inform the undersigned committee of native North Carolinians whether they will lend aid to the undertaking, and to what extent.

821 Saint Paul St., Baltimore,
May 20, 1893.

EDWARD GRAHAM DAVES,
FRANCIS WHITE,
WM. SHEPARD BRYAN,
A. MARSHALL ELLIOTT,
BARTLETT S. JOHNSTON,
THOMAS J. BOYKIN.

I
of
do hereby agree to take shares in the company organized for the purchase
and preservation of Raleigh's fort on Roanoke Island.



surely come when this sacred spot should pass into the possession of a corporate body of men who will rescue the fort from further decay, and who will see that it shall remain intact for all time to come. It is proposed to organize a company which will issue two hundred shares of stock at twenty-five dollars per share. With this sum the purchase can be made, and a small annual income left with which to preserve and protect the property. The shores moreover offer valuable fishing and shooting privileges, which may be made a source of revenue, and portions of the land not needed for the purpose of the company may be sold.

All to whom this circular is sent are earnestly requested to show it to others who may be interested in the patriotic project, and to inform the undersigned committee of native North Carolinians whether they will lend aid to the undertaking, and to what extent.

821 Saint Paul St., Baltimore,
May 20, 1895.

EDWARD GRAHAM DAVES,
FRANCIS WHITE,
WM. SHEPARD BRYAN,
A. MARSHALL ELLIOTT,
BARTLETT S. JOHNSTON,
THOMAS J. BOYKIN.

I.....
of.....
do hereby agree to take..... shares in the company organized for the purchase
and preservation of Raleigh's fort on Roanoke Island.

