

The Mystery of the Lost Colony

A Quality Serials Story

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Our Story So Far: A group of colonists from England, led by Governor John White, land on Roanoke Island or “Virginia” as it was then called. Sir Walter Raleigh, a favorite of England’s Queen Elizabeth, organized and sent this new band of men, women and children to establish a permanent colony. A native red wolf observes the colonists’ arrival.

Chapter Two: Footprints in the Sand

Governor White and the colonists left their footprints in the sand as they walked inland. Cautiously, the noble red wolf followed. He remembered the first time he had followed footprints such as these. Englishmen had made those footprints, too. Those first Englishmen were explorers.

The wolf had watched his red brothers gather at the water’s edge to meet the explorers. Weapons in hand, the English came ashore.

“I am Barlowe,” said one of the men.

Unafraid, Granganimeo, king Wingina’s brother, greeted him warmly.

“Welcome!” Granganimeo said in his own language.

The Englishmen didn’t understand him, so Granganimeo struck his head and chest, then struck Barlowe’s head and chest. All the while, he smiled broadly showing his good faith.

More than a full cycle of the moon passed. Finally, the English prepared to leave. The red wolf was there to see them go. To his amazement, two powerful chieftains, Manteo and Wanchese, climbed into the strange canoe that moved using wind. The wolf stared as they disappeared across the big water!

A year later, more Englishmen arrived on Roanoke. These men were not explorers like the others, but colonists. They brought Manteo and Wanchese back with them.

The whole village gathered around the two chieftains to hear their extraordinary tales of England. The wolf listened too.

“The white man’s world has many wonders! Englishmen have great manatoac,” Manteo related. “Even their queen has hair like fire!”

“Englishmen have great power,” Wanchese agreed. “But their queen is ugly!”

Everyone laughed, except Manteo. Eventually, his red brothers put talk of England aside and went to bed. Dreams of a queen with hair like fire haunted the noble wolf’s sleep!

The colonists built an earthen fort and English-style houses. Once again, the natives offered them friendship. They helped the Englishmen by teaching them how to fish and grow food.

But things changed! The colony failed. The people couldn't survive in the unfamiliar land and almost starved. Their peace with the natives turned to war. The colonists gave up and sailed for home. Fifteen men stayed behind to hold the land for Queen and country!

The red wolf followed as Governor White and his party searched for the men from the previous colony.

“Here!” shouted one of the searchers.

The others rushed over to see what he had found.

“What is it?” asked Governor White.

The man pointed to something. It was a human skeleton!

“What do you think happened to the others?” someone said.

“Probably had the same luck as this poor devil,” answered the man that had found the skeleton.

Feeling uneasy, the colonists moved onward to the site of the old colony. The men went to work rebuilding the fort. The women set about to make the abandoned houses into homes.

“Such a mess!” Eleanor Dare cried when she entered her house. Eleanor sat down her cleaning basket and began the huge task of tidying up.

Mysteriously the basket began to move! The lid began to shake. Something was trying to get out of the basket—and it was alive!

Next Time... Chapter Three: Encounters