

The LOST Roanoke Colony Mystery

INTRO

117 Britons embarked on a journey into the heart of the unknown, seeking a new life and a brighter future in a distant land. Little did they know, they were about to become pawns in a centuries-old chess game between the [British Empire](#) and the [Native Americans](#).

Men, women, and children were lost to the dangers of the wild in the late 1580's. The nature of their [death](#) unknown, their bones unseen, and their whereabouts hidden in [cryptic messages](#).

This horror mystery will make your grandpa's tall tales seem like child's play!

Spoiler alert...well,...you already know, it didn't quite go as planned. Did some aliens take them, or did the native Americans have a feast with them? Find out for yourself!

BODY

Chapter 1: The Expedition

In the late 1500s, England was eager to flex some muscle across the ocean. [Queen Elizabeth I](#) gives [Sir Walter Raleigh](#) the ultimate job: be the explorer-in-chief and find a piece of land to call England's own. So, Raleigh sends out his dynamic duo, Philip Amadas and Arthur Barlowe, like Sherlock and Watson but with more feathered hats. These guys hop on a ship and sail to Roanoke Island, North America's answer to a mystery treasure map. They're tasked with picking the primo spot for an English colony.

Amadas and Barlowe strolled along the island's shores, scribbling down notes like secret agents with fancy quills. They're all like, "Oh, look at those scenic estuaries, and check out those broad sounds!" as if they stumbled upon the world's fanciest picnic spot. Barlowe's pen must've been smoking with all the praise he was scribbling about Roanoke Island.

Back in England, the buzz was like a bee convention in the Queen's garden. Everyone's chattering about Amadas and Barlowe's discovery, sharing stories faster than you can say "royal gossip." Queen Elizabeth's so impressed that she knights Raleigh, and he gets to name the newfoundland "[Virginia](#)" after her majesty herself. Talk about the ultimate royal shoutout!

Fast-forward to 1585, and Raleigh's sends a mixtape of folks—100 of 'em—to set up shop on Roanoke Island. They're a wild bunch—soldiers, miners, and even some brainy scientists. But they arrived too late for the gardening season, and bowl fillers were running low. To make things

even spicier, Lane decides it's a grand idea to rub the neighboring Roanoke Indians the wrong way.

Things go downhill faster than a runaway carriage when Lane adds "chief-slayer" to his resume by taking out Wingina, the local bigwig among the Roanoke Indians. By 1586, Lane and his crew were waving the white flag and high-tailing it out of there, leaving behind a fort.

But Raleigh's not one to back down, named [John White](#) as Governor of the colony. Determined to make this colony thing work, White gathers a crew of 117, including his pregnant daughter, Eleanor Dare. Yep, pregnant on a colonial expedition – because who needs an easy life, right? They're all set to head to Chesapeake Bay, but Simon Fernandes, their Portuguese pilot, decides he'd rather play pirate and chase Spanish ships instead. Ahoy, matey!

So, Fernandes reroutes the gang back to Roanoke Island, and the saga continues.

Chapter 2: No One's Home

The Roanoke colonists, after some rumbling among the locals, soon discovered that the 15 men left behind had met an unfortunate fate at the hands of the indigenous folks. Let's just say, the neighborhood wasn't as friendly as they'd hoped. Simon Fernandes, the Portuguese pilot, does a magical disappearing act of his own and ditches the colony on Roanoke Island. He essentially says, "Hey, you're stuck here, so make yourselves at home!"

And that's exactly what they did. Unloading their bags and boxes, the colonists patched up the old fort like a group of handy beavers. But the island vibes were as cozy as a porcupine's embrace. August 18, 1587, was a day that marked not just another date on the calendar, but the birth of someone extraordinary – Eleanor Dare's daughter, Virginia. Ta-da! The first English child to grace American soil with her presence.

But things didn't get rosy. The colony was suffering, and John White had to go ask for help at the capital. Little did John White know, he was heading for a journey that would separate him from his family for good. No goodbyes, just a wave from the deck as the ship sails away.

Chapter 3: No Goodbyes

When White finally sets foot back in England, he's met with a not-so-warm welcome—the [Spanish Armada](#)'s brewing, and it's not exactly tea time. Trapped in the chaos, White's grand plan to gather supplies and rush back to Roanoke goes up in smoke, like a birthday candle blown out by a gust of wind.

After three long years, White came back to Roanoke Island. It was his granddaughter's third birthday—a bittersweet occasion. He steps onto the once-familiar soil, expecting to be welcomed with open arms by his fellow colonists and his family. But reality slaps him like a wet fish – the settlement's deserted. There's a high wooden wall surrounding the place, and carved into the wooden palisade, a single word – "[CROATOAN](#)."

But what did it mean? White decoded the message; he believed it pointed to Croatoan, the land of Chief Manteo's people, south of Roanoke. With a heart full of hope and a map in hand, White was ready to uncover the truth. But just as he was about to embark on his expedition, nature decided to throw a tantrum – a hurricane, of all things. White's ships were damaged, his plans shattered, and he was forced to sail back to England with nothing but a heavy heart.

Despite his best efforts, White could never muster the resources to return to the land of mystery. The years rolled on, Raleigh faced his own share of drama, and White – well, he lived on, in the dark about his family's fate and the colony's destiny.

And so, the 117 pioneers of Roanoke Island disappeared into the folds of history, leaving behind a puzzle that's still unsolved. What actually happened to the colonists?

Chapter 4: Where Could They Have Gone?

Most historians think it was a double whammy – unfamiliar New World germs and Native American squabbles. Who knew the 1600s had their own version of reality TV drama?

The clue, or so it seems, all came down to John White's map. White's map had these two patches that caught the attention of Brent Lane, a history enthusiast who's got the eyes of Da Vinci. But what's this?

The British Museum's super sleuths uncovered a tiny red-and-blue symbol on those patches. It would seem that when disaster hit, the colonists took a page out of the "How to Survive 101" manual. They split into smaller groups, like a family trying to decide on a pizza topping. It's like the ultimate survival strategy, because, let's be real – no tribe or village could handle an unexpected influx of over a hundred newcomers.

[Eric Klingelhofer](#), history's own codebreaker, drops the bombshell – he thinks the map's got secrets. These hidden spots on the map could've been a secret society meeting point or a cryptic message for time-traveling historians. Klingelhofer got a mind-blowing idea – what if they didn't head south to Croatoan Island like everyone thought? What if they went west?

Chapter 5: Modern Times

And guess what? Nearby, archaeologists found a Native American town named Mettaquem, which could've been their cozy hangout.

Eric Klingelhofer, our history hero, teams up with the First Colony Foundation for an encore performance. But this time, they've brought some seriously cool tools. We're talking magnetometers and ground-penetrating radar, straight out of a sci-fi movie. Now, Malcolm LeCompte, the genius behind the curtain at Elizabeth City State University. He's the guy who brought [GPR](#) to the party. And what's GPR, you ask? Well, it's like Superman's X-ray vision for the ground. They're shooting radio waves into the earth, waiting for echoes, like they're having a conversation with the planet itself. It's like Mother Earth's version of "Guess Who?"

The earth answered! GPR hits the jackpot! LeCompte and his squad used old maps and the geography of the area to unearth a pattern that showed that there was a structure hidden underground.

The Museum of the Albemarle's Swindell also brought to the party a proton magnetometer. This is like a metal detector on steroids, with a sixth sense for buried objects. Now, these modern explorers have pieced the puzzle together, they find something intriguing under three feet of soil – possibly a wooden structure, like the colonists' DIY cabin. And guess what else? There was also a fence found, and all these discoveries show that a colony was present there.

CONCLUSION

While modern tech is a superhero, it's got a kryptonite, the Native American presence was not found in the area. The adventure of history never truly ends, and who knows? Perhaps one day, a curious mind armed with a futuristic gadget will unlock where the Roanoke colony was and their native American rivals.

Until then, what is your theory on what happened to the lost colony?

Don't forget to hit that like button, leave your thoughts in the comments below, and if you're craving more curious tales from history, be sure to subscribe! Keep exploring and stay curious with HistOddities!