



THE LOST COLONY *of* ROANOKE.

IRONING OUT THE CLUES TO AMERICA'S OLDEST UNSOLVED MYSTERY.

Before the renowned Pilgrims of Plymouth arrived in North America in 1620, another lesser-known group of English settlers arrived on the shores of Roanoke—off the coast of what is now North Carolina—in 1587. One hundred and fifteen people were dispatched from England at the command of Sir Walter Raleigh, sent to establish a colony in the New World.

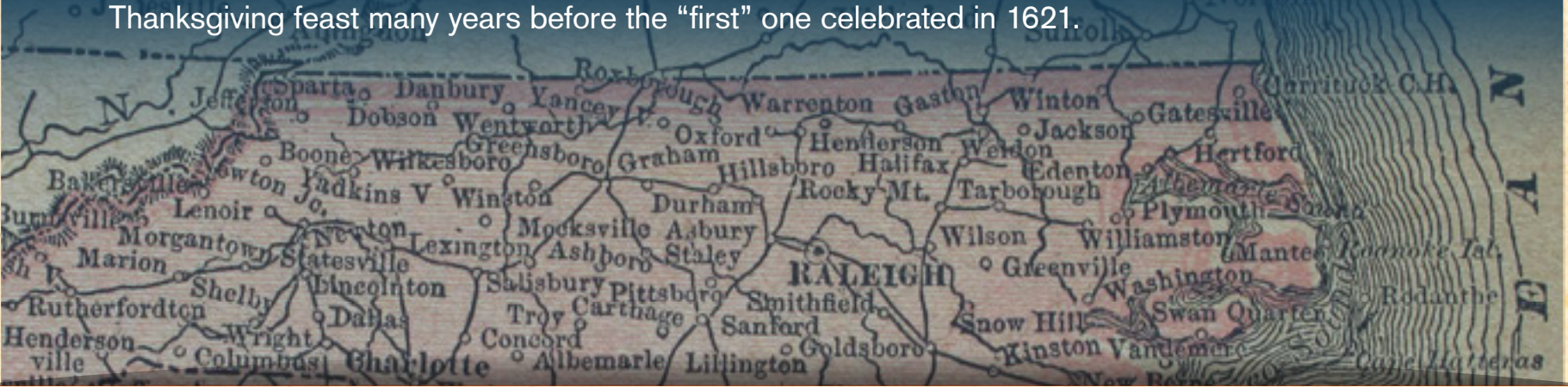
After months of living in their new settlement, their governor, John White, voyaged back to England to gather more supplies. However, his journey was delayed for more than three years, as he was called into duty by Queen Elizabeth I to take up arms against the Spanish Armada. When White finally returned to Roanoke, he not only found that his wife, daughter and grandchild were missing, but that the entire colony had vanished without a trace.

Historians and archaeologists have tried for centuries to uncover the truth behind this astonishing mystery but were left with only one clue: the word “Croatoan” carved into a post. Recently, new theories have arisen based on surprising evidence found near Cape Creek in North Carolina, including the hilt of an iron rapier, an iron bar and a copper block dating back to the late 1500's. Native Americans lacked this kind of metallurgic technology in that time period, leading researchers to believe these items could have belonged to members of the Lost Colony. Is it possible the Lost Colonists peacefully assimilated with Native Americans? If so, there very well could have been a Thanksgiving feast many years before the “first” one celebrated in 1621.

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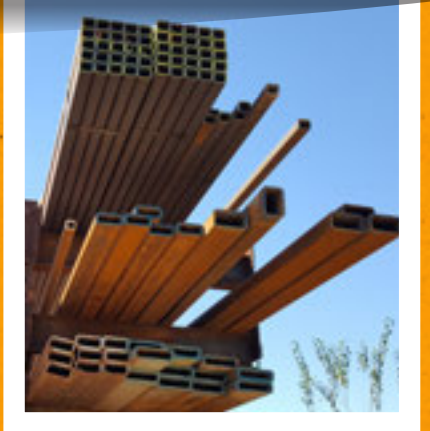
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