

**Volume 14**

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**Virginia Dare**

**Lead: On August, 18, 1587, the first child of English parentage was born in the New World. The fate of tiny Virginia Dare is caught up in one of history's great mysteries – The Lost Colony.**

**Intro.: *A Moment in Time* with Dan Roberts.**

**Content: Optimistic about successful colonization of the New World, one of English Queen Elizabeth's favorites, Sir Walter Raleigh, attempted expeditions to Virginia in the 1580s. The first failed but he sent a second in 1587. This**

**group of 117, including men, women and children, departed Plymouth on May 8th. Their intended destination was further north in the Chesapeake region, but for reasons not completely clear, possibly due to hurricane season, the pilot refused to continue, and in mid-July dropped them on Roanoke Island just off what would become the Carolina mainland.**

**The appointed governor of the colony was John White, illustrator, map-maker and explorer. White's illustrations of the landscape and Native Americans from the first trip are found today in many American history books. Among the colonists were White's daughter, Elinor White Dare, and her husband Ananias Dare,**

**White's assistant. One month after the landing baby Virginia Dare was born on August 18th and christened on the Sunday following.**

**Ten days later Grandfather White returned to England to bring back needed supplies and new recruits. What happened to little Virginia and her parents remains a mystery. White was unable to communicate with or return to the colony for three years and found the settlement abandoned. The only clue was the word "CROATOAN" etched on a palisade cross-member and the letters "CRO" carved into a tree.**

**Research assistance by Ann Johnson, at the University of**

# **Richmond, this is Dan Roberts.**

## **Resources**

**Devine, Robert A., et al. America Past and Present. New York: Longman, Inc., 1998.**

**Fort Raleigh National Historic Site. Historic Handbook 16. Dec. 2, 2002.**

**Horn, James. *A Land as God Make It: Jamestown and the Birth of America*. New York: Basic Books, 2005.**

**National Park Service. “Roanoke Revisited Heritage Education Program.”**

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