

the word "Croatoan." He took this as a token that they had been carried away by the friendly Indians of Manteo's tribe, which was on an island to the south, and on the mainland. Before Governor White left, there had been some talk of the colonists going "fifty miles into the main." If they were in distress, a cross was to be carved under the word Croatoan. Those Indians, called Croatans by the English, seemed to have occupied most of the country now comprising the eastern counties of North Carolina bordering on Pamlico Sound.

After a vain search, Governor White was compelled to return to the fleet. On the following day he thought of sailing to Croatoan, but, on account of approaching foul weather, it was decided that they should sail to the West India Islands for the winter, and return in the spring to look for the colonists at Croatoan. This they failed to do, for after cruising about for a time in search of Spanish prizes, they finally sailed for England, and reached Plymouth in October, 1590.

The colonists were not abandoned to their fate without other attempts being made to find them. Sir Walter Raleigh fitted out three or more expeditions at his own expense, but it is doubtful if any of them ever landed at Roanoke, Croatoan Island, or the mainland, in search of the lost people: for the navigators of that time were more intent on seizing Spanish galleons, than in looking for their lost countrymen, and the prizes were more frequently to be found further south, in the neighborhood of the West India Islands.

The unfortunate people were never more heard of, unless something related by Lawson, an early historian, has some reference to them. He wrote in 1714: "The Hatteras Indians, who lived on Roanoke Island, or much frequented it, tell us that several of their ancestors were white people, and could talk in a book as we do: the truth of which is confirmed, by grey

eyes being frequently found amongst these Indians, and no others. They value themselves extremely for their affinity to the English, and are ready to do them all friendly offices." No attempt seems to have been made to find out anything more at that time.

After White left Roanoke, the name of this settlement, the so-called city of Raleigh, disappeared from the annals of the country until 1654, when a party of explorers from Virginia, reached Roanoke, and saw what they termed the ruins of Walter Raleigh's fort. This was a bastioned fort of irregular shape, about forty rods square. Its present condition is thus described in *Harper's Magazine* for 1860: "The trench is clearly traceable in a square of about forty rods 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 like a sentinel near the centre: a fragment or two of stone or brick may be discovered in the gaps; and then all is told of the existing relics of the city of Raleigh."

There is part of a tribe of Indians now living in North Carolina, who own quite a large section of land in Robeson county. They are called Croatans, and there is some reason for believing that they are the descendants of the tribe thus designated by the English who first came to Roanoke Island.

Croatoan was the name given to that part of the country inhabited by the friendly Indians, and the people were called Croatans by the colonists, but part of the country lying to the