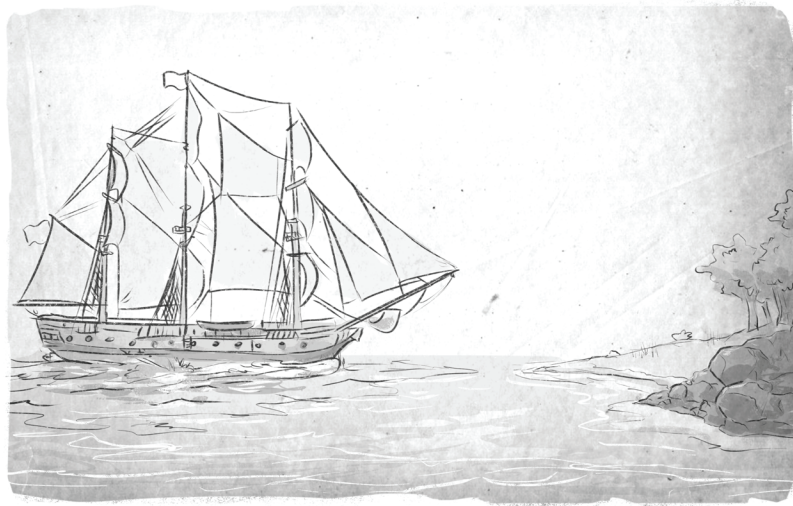


*Adventures on the American Frontier*

# The First American Colonists

Part Two

Mystery at Roanoke Island



A Royal Fireworks Production

Royal Fireworks Press  
Unionville, New York



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Royal Fireworks Press  
P.O. Box 399  
41 First Avenue  
Unionville, NY 10988-0399  
(845) 726-4444  
fax: (845) 726-3824  
email: [mail@rfwp.com](mailto:mail@rfwp.com)  
website: [rfwp.com](http://rfwp.com)



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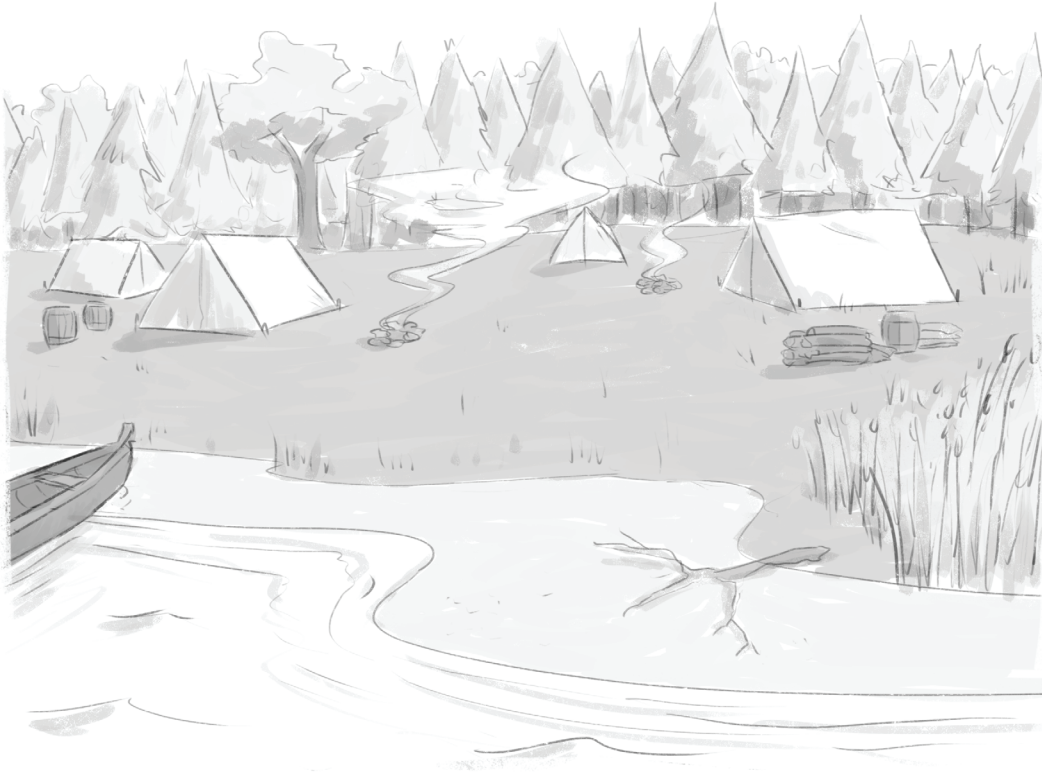
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In 1585, seven ships flying the flag of England headed for the New World. At that time, the Spanish colony of St. Augustine was the only white settlement north of Mexico in North America. But the year before, in 1584, English ships had sailed into Pamlico Sound, off the coast of what is now North Carolina, and the English travelers had gone to shore there. The many different kinds of plants and animals they saw surprised and pleased them. The land was rich and bountiful. It held great promise.





The English travelers had camped on an island, which they named Roanoke.

There the Native Americans, who were of the Pamlico tribe, welcomed them. They invited the white visitors to a feast of fish,



venison, fruits, ginger and sassafras tea,  
and juice made from wild grapes.

“A wonderful land,” the sailors reported  
when they were back in England. So Sir  
Walter Raleigh, who owned the ships, began  
to plan a colony for Roanoke Island.

“The land is ours,” he told people who  
reminded him that Spain and France were  
both claiming North America at the time.

“The Englishman John Cabot explored that  
coast before the French and Spanish ships  
ever got there.”

Raleigh fitted out the seven ships and found people who were willing to go to America to make a home in the new land. Sir Richard Grenville was to be the commander of the fleet and the colony.

For four months, the small wooden ships moved across the great sea. On a day in early August, the colonists saw for the first time the land of the New World.

Grenville had charts and maps to help him find Roanoke Island, and the people went to shore there on August 17, 1585.



The people of the Pamlico tribe danced and sang and invited the newcomers to a feast.

A few days later, Grenville began to get the ships ready to go back to England.

“We’ll need more supplies to get through the first year,” he told the colonists. “If the weather is right, I’ll be back with them before winter, or by next spring at the latest.”

Soon he was gone, and the group of 108 men was left alone in a land that had little in it to make them feel at home.