

Eastern Portion of Map: *THE AMERICAN SOUTHEAST IN 1606*

(full map, suitable for framing, at: <http://historicurbanplans.com/p.tpl?id=13#13>)

This map from 1606 relies on the work of John White, illustrator, mapmaker, and governor of the Lost Colony

1) Roanoke Island. In 1587, 117 English colonists settled in a fort on Roanoke Island that had been built by a previous exploring party. They were led by John White, whose pregnant daughter, Elenor Dare, accompanied him. Roanoke lies inside the great string of Outer Banks barrier islands shown here. Elizabethans called the region “Virginia.”

2) Croatoan Island. When John White returned in 1590 to find the Roanoke fort abandoned, he discovered one clue to the colonists’ disappearance: the word “Croatoan” carved on a post. “Croatoan” was the name of a nearby barrier island and its resident Indian tribe. Manteo, a Croatoan, had been a trusty ally of the English. This suggests that some Lost Colonists moved to Croatoan Island (now called Hatteras).

3) Dasamotiquepeuc (Dasamonquepeuk). This Algonkian village was home of Wanchese, who resisted the English. When one of the colonists was murdered by Indians, John White blamed Wanchese and mounted a dawn attack on his village. The retaliation was a disaster, for White’s men mistakenly fired on their own allies, the Croatoans, who had come to raid the cornfields abandoned by Wanchese’s people.

4) Chypanum. Ralph Lane, the leader of the 1585–86 English expedition, mentions a “women’s town” at Chypanum, on Albemarle Sound. The 1606 map shows two villages linked by a hatchmarked path and labeled “Chepanuu” in that location. Was one of these an Algonkian “women’s town”? If so, what did that mean? No one knows for sure.

5) Trinity Harbor. This marks one of the breaches between the barrier islands. These passageways were shifty and rough, often dangerous for large and small ships to cross.

6) Chesepiock Sinus (Chesapeake Bay). The Lost Colonists of 1587 had intended to settle in the Chesapeake Bay region but were forced to disembark on Roanoke Island by the ship’s pilot, Simon Fernandes, who apparently had the support of the ship’s crew.

7) Skicoak. An Algonkian village noted by Ralph Lane, one of the leaders of the 1585–86 expedition. His descriptions show that Elizabethan exploring parties were capable of venturing long distances over water and land throughout the Virginia region.

8) The Chowan River.

9) The Roanoke River. Ralph Lane describes venturing up the Roanoke River.

10) Aquascogoc (Aquascogok). Sir Richard Grenville, the first leader of the 1585–86 expedition, describes setting fire to this village and its cornfields in retaliation for the theft of an English silver cup. It is likely that the aggressive behavior of the Grenville-Lane party antagonized the Algonkians and affected the situation of the Lost Colonists.

11) Cape Fear. John White reported that the pilot, Simon Fernandes, almost ran their fleet aground at Cape Fear. White’s letters frequently complain about Fernandes.

12) A fortified Algonkian village. 13) Algonkians fishing in a canoe. Both these images are based on John White’s watercolor illustrations of Virginia.