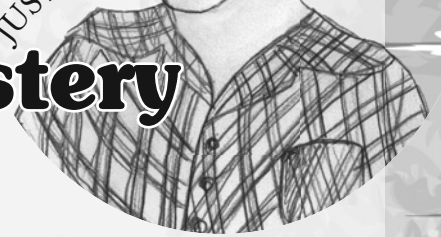


Where is the Lost Colony?

A six-chapter series celebrating the first English colony in the New World
— 20 years before Jamestown was settled!

JUSTIN



Chapter 4

Clue not enough to solve mystery

by Sandy Semans, writer

The classroom was hot with the sun streaming through the windows onto Justin. The heat was making him nod off from time to time, but he fought sleep. No sense in wasting sleep when he wouldn't have enough time to dream travel before the bell rang.

Finally, the shrill sound signaled time to go to the next period's class. Today, he was excited because the bell meant he was going to study hall in the library.

Entering the double doors, Justin headed for the nearest computer to see if he could shortcut his search for the lost colony by using the Internet. The idea came from his sister Jessica after he explained his mission.

"Just type in 'what clues did the lost colony leave?' and hit enter," Jessica told him.

Justin followed the directions and up popped a list of websites — one might give him exactly what he needed.

After opening several websites, he found two clues left behind by the colonists: "CROATAN" carved on a post and "CRO" carved into a tree.

John White had said that there was a carving on a tree. He must have been talking about "CRO," Justin thought.

But what do the clues mean? Was the language strange or in code?

He decided to see if the computer could once again provide an answer.

"CROATAN?" he typed into the search bar.

Wikipedia offered more clues. It said that the "...Croatan were a small Native American group living in the coastal areas of what is now North Carolina. They may have been a branch of the larger Roanoke people or allied with them....The Roanoke and Croatan were believed to have been on good terms with English settlers of the Roanoke Colony."

And there was Manteo — a Croatoan — who was a chief of the Croatans. Surely he would know something important!

That was it! Justin thought. He would try to find Manteo — he might know how the lost colony disappeared and where the settlers went.

Later that night, Justin was stretched

across his bed doing homework while Jessica and younger sister Jenna lay on the floor playing a board game. Jenna didn't often talk — she could speak but usually just chose to be a silent onlooker.

"You have stuff under your bed," Jenna said. "I don't have things under mine."

Annoyed by her observation, Justin replied, "Well, good for you, smarty pants. I'll clean it out sometime."

He closed his math textbook. "Okay, I'm going to bed so find another floor to lie on," he barked at his sisters.

Gathering up the game pieces, the girls started leaving the room. "You should clean under your bed," Jenna said as her parting shot.

Justin hurried through his bedtime routine and then settled in under the sheet. He was going to look for Manteo.

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Lost Colony actors reenact the scene when John White discovered CRO, carved into a tree, a clue left behind by the missing colonists. Courtesy of the Lost Colony

Next week, Chapter 5, Manteo, man of few words

Activity:

Follow Jessica's advice. Search the Internet, using the question, "What clues did the lost colony leave?" What do you learn from the search? What are the theories? What evidence is given to support each theory? What are the sources?

Search stories archived in your newspaper's electronic or e-edition about the Lost Colony, Hatteras and/or the Outer Banks (or Raleigh). Use other key words that may lead to stories about coastal issues. What current news and information do you find about the area? What are the sources?