

Where is the Lost Colony?

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



Chapter 2

Hail to the Queen!

by Sandy Semans, writer

Justin tossed and turned as he tried to go back to sleep after being awakened by his mother.

Maybe if he felt more tired, he thought. He jumped out of bed and began doing jumping jacks and then tried running in place.

Neither worked.

Reading might be the key, he thought. Rummaging through a stack of books, he



Catherine Moran, queen, and Sir Walter Raleigh, unidentified, acted in a production of the Lost Colony. Photo courtesy of the Lost Colony Archives

found one that was sure to put him to sleep — Beowulf!

After a while, his eyelids began to flutter and then he slowly sank back into the land of dreams.

There he was! Sir Walter Raleigh was just going

through the archway. If Justin hurried, maybe he could catch up with him.

He shouted out a couple of times as he ran across the cobblestone courtyard, but Raleigh apparently didn't hear him — or he had no time to deal with a young boy.

Finally, Justin caught up to him as Raleigh bowed to the woman in the back of the room and the two began talking.

"Sir, sir, can you help me?" Justin asked as he approached his target.

"Who dares to interrupt the Queen?" the woman growled as she took a step toward him.

Justin stared for a moment before he asked, "Are you the Pumpkin Queen?"

"What did you say? How dare you make light of royal authority!" Queen Elizabeth shouted.

Cowering a little, Justin responded, "I didn't mean to make you mad. Your skirt is orange and shaped like a pumpkin and the top is green and looks like a stem...."

"Unbelievable! You must be short of your wits to address me in such a manner," she said as she glanced down at her skirt.

"I'm sorry, I just wanted to ask Sir Raleigh if he knows where the lost colony is," Justin said with a slight quiver in his voice.

Now her attention swung to Raleigh. "You lost the colony? After pestering and prodding me for permission to send settlers to that place so we could beat Spain to claiming the area, you lost them?" she demanded to know.

"They aren't lost, your Majesty," Raleigh said, "...they just misplaced themselves."

Snapping her fan to show her displeasure, the Queen shouted, "Pray tell, how do 117 souls left there in 1587 misplace themselves by 1590? Oh, never mind, just get out of my sight - both of you wretches!"

Justin followed Raleigh's lead in bowing to the Queen as he backed toward the archway.

The Queen was still shouting as they left her sight. "Prepare a new wardrobe for me at once and, when I've changed, burn this skirt and bodice and bury the ashes," she ordered her ladies-in-waiting. "Pumpkin Queen? Hah!"

As Justin stepped into the courtyard, Raleigh let out a bellowing laugh. "Pumpkin Queen? You insulted the Queen by comparing her with something grown by Indians in the New World? Wherever did you get that?"

Justin, insulted slightly by Raleigh's laughter, said, "I don't know why she got so mad — my older sister Jessica is the Cucumber Queen and has a crown and all her friends are jealous. She says that next year she wants to be the Strawberry Queen but that she isn't sure she can win that one because she might not be tall enough."

Raleigh stared at him for a moment and then shook his head as though he was trying to regain his senses.

"Why, boy, do you ask about the lost colonists?" he asked.

"My grandpa said that if I can tell him where the lost colony is, he will take me to the Outer Banks this summer," Justin explained.

"And what are the Outer Banks?" Raleigh asked.

"That's sort of where the colonists were before they were lost," Justin said, surprised that Raleigh didn't know the answer.

Raleigh paused for a second. "Well, maybe you need to talk to John White. He was the governor of the colony."

"Where can I find him?" asked Justin.

The shrill noise of the alarm clock woke up the dream traveler, and he had to put off his search until he could find reason to sleep again.

Provided by the NC Press Foundation, Newspapers in Education.

Next week, Chapter 3, Longing for Virginia Dare!

Activity:

What did Queen Elizabeth say and do to make clear that she had authority? How did the people around her treat her?

What officeholders act with authority today? Identify the officeholders in the news. Cite evidence. What do the officeholders do and how are they treated that show they have authority?