

Introduction

Shouting and banging of a cup on a table could be heard by those walking into the room where Governor John White and the colonists met in a small building to discuss the urgency of their short supplies and food. The colonists took a vote and handed John White a letter that he should board the ship that waited offshore to take him back to England and bring supplies to the Island. They argue with John and insist that he return to England for supplies. Most of the men there believe he's too soft and sees the premise of his departure as God sent. They signed a petition and handed it to him, for they blamed him for their misfortune of being dropped off at Roanoke and not at the Chesapeake Bay where Sir. Walter Raleigh intended them to land.

"There will be no supply ships to deliver us." One shouted.

"We're stranded here by that bloody bugger Fernandez and his band of mutineers." Shouted another, waving a tight fist at the Governor.

When they arrived on the Island of Roanoke, Fernandez's deputy gave orders to his men,

"Not a man will be allowed to return to the ship, and only one of the leaders would be allowed to board." He ordered.

From the room, Edward Crown shouts, "You're the Governor; who does he think he is?"

"Hear, hear." Many in the room shout.

"He should have taken us to the Chesapeake Bay and not stranded us here on this Island." Shouted Richard Crowley, "Fernandez won't stay another week, I tell you. Moreover, I'm not even sure the supply ships will know we're here once his ship is gone."

"Quiet, please, quiet," John shouted with raised hands and hammered the cup on the table to get everyone to quiet down.

They lower their voices to a murmur.

John White continues. "We must continue to hunt and fish for our meats and till the ground to produce our crops. We have no other choice, and we must build here and...."

Levi, John, and Jacob walk into the hall late, and John looks out to them, hoping to hear good news. John sent them out before daybreak to scout the land for food and, if possible, bring home meats with hopes of displaying them before the colony. Jacob shook his head with a sad face. Discouraged, John White took in a deep breath and sighed.

"We must take courage and explore this Island for food. Mr. Tanner, I'm tasking you to find a way to change how we fish."

"Those damn savages aren't as friendly to us as you lead us to believe. They killed old George Howe off the Albemarle Sound just last week. How do you expect me to improve our fishing if they take what we catch after they've run us off?" Shouts Tanner.

"The Croatian Indians are our friends; we were deceived by a different Roanoke Indian tribe, believing the Croatians were responsible for the death of Mr. Howe and the others. Manteo is a trusted friend; his tribe will teach us to grow corn in this land. Nevertheless, it may bold well that we only go hunting or fishing in groups of two or three. There is strength in numbers." He takes a deep breath, "I warn you all, they are our lifeline. It will behoove us to keep our status friendly and learn from them."

"Well, Governor, if you noticed, there's not much wildlife to hunt here on this Island that we can see." Shouted Bartholomew Potter. "How many times must you send Levi, John, and Jacob out to hunt for meat, and they came back empty-handed?" The room is now quiet as Mr. Potter accuses Governor White of incompetence.

Ignoring Potter's remarks, John White says, "Mr. Grey and Mr. Edgar Walter will assist Mr. Tanner in building boats that will take us across the sound so that we may hunt for meat on the mainland. Levi, John, and Jacob have already solicited Manteo's help in this endeavor."

Everyone turns to face the three as their wives join them in the back of the room.

"As Governor of this colony, I vote we choose from among you esteemed gentlemen to return to England to represent us in these early trying times. Why not one of you volunteer to go back and represent the colony?" The Governor asks as he points to the crowd of men present.

Jacob was about to step forward, but Potter, one of the seven colony leaders, not including the Governor, held him back. Bartholomew Potter, Levi Addams, Jacob Schmidt, John West, Rufus Tanner, Ananias Dare, and Edgar Walter were all chosen to assist Governor White in establishing and settling a colony in the New World.

"Sir Walter Raleigh appointed you as Governor, and you must represent us in England," Potter Shouts.

Governor White was unwilling to leave because his daughter, Eleanor Dare, had just delivered her first child that Wednesday, August 18, 1587, and was Christened Virginia Dare that following Sunday. After days of insisting that he sail back to England by the colonists, Governor White remains hesitant to leave. John White has possessions he was unwilling to leave behind, but they all promised that upon his return, his possessions would be there for his use. Governor White grows weary of all the arguing; reluctantly, John agrees to return for the sake of the colony. On August 28, 1587, with a heavy heart, he boarded the ship and set sail to return to England, hoping to return with tools, food, and glad tidings.

A year has passed, and Governor White has yet to return. Another winter is upon them, and the colony, which barely made it through its first winter, is now preparing for the next. They fared well during the spring and summer, but a sense of urgency compels them to explore beyond the boundaries set by Mr. Potter. Potter usurps all the orders Governor White put before the men before he boarded the ship to England. The colony knows a good fall hunt will get them through winter.

In late October of 1588, three men set out early in the morning, hoping to find food on the Island's west side, and were prepared to launch off across the sound to the mainland for the first time. While on the continent, they plan to scout the area to join up with another colony, hoping it will help them better their chances of surviving the unrelenting winters and droughts of crops. After walking for nearly an hour on the Island, they came across fleeing deer that seemed to be everywhere.

"What in God's name is going on here, and where are all these animals coming from?" Levi asked.

A Deer ran between the men, surprising them, causing John to fire his musket in a rush, missing the deer.

"How did you miss? It was close enough to kill with a club." Jacob teased.

"Well, maybe you should have taken the bloody shot," John complained.

"Quiet, you two; we may have another chance. I can hear another one coming this way." Levi whispered.

"Be all the ready; if it passes to Jacob's left, he will take the shot, and if it passes to my right, I'll shoot it," Levi instructed.

"Well, what happens if it charges right through us?" John said.

"You reloaded your musket yet?" Levi asks.

"I was going too, but he was arguing with me," John replied.

"Then you damn well better club the hell out of it with the butt of your musket," Levi growled.

The rustling in the thick bushes and trees came closer and louder. The men readied themselves for the deer to break through the brush at any moment. A loud crack, and then the bush parted in front of them. A startled Bear sees the three men, stops in its tracks, stands on its hind legs, and roars. Levi and Jacob fire their muskets in fear. They both miss the bear completely. Without a word and not missing a step, John runs off before either of the other two fires a shot; when their attempts fail to hit their target, they turn to run

in the same direction where John has already blazed a trail. The bear does not follow them but continues running eastward of the Island. Levi turns to see the bear as it rushes off toward the colony. When they catch up with John, he's standing at the edge of the wood line where it meets the beach, his arms bleeding, bruised, and shaking as he stands staring at the sea. Jacob and Levi were laughing at the close encounter and trying to catch their breath, leaning their hands on their knees. Jacob looks up, noticing John staring at the sea and trembling as if standing in freezing rain.

Levi walks over, placing his hand on John's shoulder. "It's quite all right, old man; we scared the beast off in the other direction."

John does not respond to Levi, for his glaze is out to sea. Levi then turns to see what's holding John's attention.

"Mother of God," Levi said.

Neither of them could believe what they were seeing nor explain it. All manner of wildlife were swimming across the sound, and the birds were flying in all directions.

"How many miles do you think it is to cross the sound?" Jacob asks.

"Don't rightly know, but it's about twice the width of this Island," Levi replies.

"What do you think is causing this? I don't see any smoke, so there's no fire." John notices.

"We better reload and get back to the fort," Levi states.

Back at the fort, everyone in the village stood watching and waiting to see what was driving the animals into such a frenzy. Being low on food and supplies, they believed it was heaven-sent. Most of the men in the colony had their muskets at the ready and began shooting the fleeing deer from the fort right before they could exit the Island and back into the ocean.

The three men standing at the beach could hear muskets firing in the distance.

"You hear that?" Jacob asks.

"Yes, it sounds like it's coming from the fort," Levi says.

They finished loading their muskets, and Levi glanced up at the sound and watched the last animal run ashore. They also noticed that others were still in the water going past the north side of the Island.

John asked, "Do you hear that?"

"Yes, John, we can hear the musket fire."

"No, not that." He waves him off and holds his head at an angle as if trying to hear something out of the normal.

"I don't hear anything," Jacob said.

"Right, and neither do I," John answers. "Not even the wild animals running through the bush, nor the musket fire from the fort."

It was eerily quiet.

Then Jacob shouts, "Look!" and points at the sound.

They all look south of the Island. "What in God's name is that?" Levi asks.

"Looks like some kind of fog," Jacob says.

"That can't be fog," Levi suggests.

"Looks more like a storm cloud rolling over the sound to me," John adds.

The cloud changes direction.

"Did you see that? It was heading south across the sound, and now, it's heading due east," John says.

"No," Levi says.

"Look, it stopped. It's like it's trying to decide what direction it wants to go," John says.

"How far do you think it is from the Island?" Jacob asks.

"Can't tell, but that cloud is getting bigger and darker by the second."

"Quiet," John whispers, holding his hand up at them.

Levi and Jacob stare at each other and then at John.

"It's heading south again across the sound." He whispers.

"We can see that for ourselves, John," Jacob says, pushing John's hand out of his face.

"Do you think it can see us watching it?" John asks as he bends down on one knee behind a bush.

They look down at John as if he were crazy for asking such a question, but they both crouch down behind a bush, watching as the cloud gets darker, building upon the water while moving slowly across the sound. They are all whispering now, believing as John does.

"It's just sitting there." John says, "It was rolling slowly south on the sound, and now it's just sitting there."

"Gentlemen, I don't like this one bit," Levi whispered. "At first, I thought the deer was heaven-sent, manna from heaven, you know, until this."

They listen for gunfire from the fort but find it quiet.

"Gentlemen." John says, "I believe there be something evil in those clouds."

Jacob and Levi look at John, shaking their heads. Jacob and Levi stand slowly and start walking away, trying to keep low behind the bushes.

Jacob whispers, "Let's go, John."

"I'm sure it can see us," John says, trembling.

"Nonsense, let's go," Jacobs demands.

In a more fearful and near-crying voice, John looks at the other two and says, "It looks like it changed directions, and now it's coming this way."

Levi and Jacob crept behind the bush and saw that it had indeed started rolling slowly north and in their direction. The front edge point of the cloud was ahead of the fog towards the south, but now they noticed the same front edge point of the cloud seemed to be pushing across the wide section of the fog heading north.

"Holy Mother of God," Jacob says in a whisper.

Levi grabs John by the shirt. "I don't want to be here when it lands, do you?"

"Oh my God," John whined.

"Run, you fools, run," Levi commands while running as fast as he can through the bush.

The herd of animals had run through the bush and cleared a pathway through the forest.

The men ran east across the Island without stopping and not looking back to see if the speed of the cloud had changed or if it had made land and chased after them. When they return to the fort, the entire colony is in a festive mood.

No one in the fort witnessed the natives who saw the animals and birds fleeing across the Island and running into the ocean, believing this to be a bad Oman.

"They'll all die unless they return to land." The chief explains. "Whatever drives them into the great sea will do the same to us."

"This is a bad Oman; we must leave now with our families and find a new home until we can return." Suggests the chief's son.

The natives leave everything behind and leave the Island, traveling south in their canoes and whatever they find.

Running into the fort, Levi, Jacob, and John are all shouting and trying to catch their breath.

"We have to get off this Island. We must leave this Island now!" They shout at Mr. Potter.

"Poppy-cock," Potter says. "Why in heaven should I give such an order?"

"We must leave this Island now, right now!" Levi suggests trying to catch his breath.

“God has sent us a wonderful blessing, and here I thought you should be rejoicing with us.” Potter tries to comfort them.

“We would if we hadn’t seen what we saw coming across the sound,” John states.

“More of your excuses. Again, the three of you went out empty-handed, and once again, you’ve come back the same,” Potter said with a stern face in front of the colony.

“Potter, you old fool, you haven’t seen what we’ve seen,” Jacob warned.

“Look at what we amassed in less than a half-hour. This winter, we’ll have more salted meats stored than we ever had before. Look at this gentleman, six deer, eight wild boar, turkeys, I can go on and on; this is nothing short of being the blessings of God.” Potter exclaimed.

John screams. “Shut up, you old fool. You didn’t see what we saw crossing the sound, and if you stay here, there won’t be a winter for either of you!” He points west of the fort as many in the colony crowd around.

Levi added, “Something scared those animals, black bear, and all manner of these wild beasts, driving them, I tell you.” He insisted.

Jacob asks, trying to calm himself and everyone around him. “Did any of the animals stop? Did they, or did they continue across the Island back into the ocean?”

“Back into the ocean.” Someone says as Potter turns to stare him down.

“Exactly.” Levi, John, and Jacob agree together.

Mr. Bartholomew Potter grabbed all three men, pushing them away from the people.

“I should have the three of you thrashed for your disrespect, but it seems that you’ve been through a harrowing ordeal, and I’m willing to let it slide for now. As you three know, we haven’t had much luck up until now, and I’m doing everything I can to keep some of these good people from giving the three of you a good thrashing.”

“Potter!” Levi said, pulling free of his grip and turning to face him nearly nose to nose, “You listen to me,” pointing toward the woods. “Something is coming across that sound, and we have to leave, and we must leave at once.”

“I’ll not have you three ingrates ruin this day with your delusions, not one of you.” Potter turned to address those who stood by. “These men and their wives are not to enter this fort ever again,” he ordered.

“You have no right, Potter!” John shouted.

“I have every right; The Governor himself appointed me over the colony before he left, don’t you remember? I’m in charge!” Potter yells.

“You’re a fool, Potter; there won’t be a fort to enter,” Levi states.

The men’s wives were brought to them by some of the colony’s men pushing them by their shoulders; the women broke free and ran to their husbands in fear.

“How can he do this to us?” Levi’s wife asks.

“He’s a fool,” John Shouts for all to hear. “And so are all of you if you do not listen.”

“Something is coming that my colleagues nor I can explain, but you have to ask yourselves, what caused those beasts to flee?” Levi questions.

“Maybe they caught wind of your sent and feared for their lives.” Potter jokes, hoping to get a laugh.

He looks around at the colonists, who are beginning to fear and believe the men and their report.

“You must admit, we’ve never seen anything of the sort nor even heard of anything like it. Would it hurt to leave in our boats and come back later?” Ananias Dare suggests.

Potter angrily orders a few men still holding their muskets to escort the six out of the gate. The men look at Levi, Jacob, and John and hesitate. Potter waved his hand and nodded toward the gate with his head, and the men obeyed and escorted them out. Potter grabs one of the men.

“Shoot only as a last resort; their blood is on their own hands.” He then turns to face the now quiet colony to boost their spirits by waving his arms as a conductor would as he leads an orchestra.

“Let’s not let the mad ravings of these incompetent hunters who come baring no gift mar this benevolent moment from God himself. How many times did our good Governor John White trust them? And how many times have we witnessed their failed attempts to bring home the bacon?” Potter asks.

The colony breaks out in laughter. Then Potter points at a wild boar and says, “Who needs them to bring home the bacon when it comes home to us.”

The colony laughs nervously as Levi, John, and Jacob take their wives and walk out of the gate. Potter turns to see the banished walk through the gates.

“Make sure they leave.” Potter orders. Then, mocks as some of the colonists silently wish them godspeed.

They walk to the water’s edge, where fishing boats anchored on the shore can hold seven good men and their fishing gear. Levi orders John and Jacob to make one of the boats ready.

Levi looks at his wife and the wives of John and Jacob. “I can assure you, ladies, that our minds are as sound now as they were when we left England.”

“I believe you.” His wife states and leans into his arms.

“We all believe you.” The others say.

“Thank you.” Then he turns to face his friends who are standing behind him.

Levi warns them.

“I swear there is something evil driving those beasts from the mainland into the sound, across this Island, and back into the ocean. We’re as sound-minded as you are. Come with us.” Levi pleads.

“Levi, we just can’t pack up and leave. All that food in the fort will take us through this winter now. What you’re asking is suicide.”

“Was leaving England suicide? We all took a chance to settle here in the new world. I can’t explain it, but I’m asking you to come with us and save your families from the evil that will surely come.” Levi pleads.

They all back away from Levi. “We can’t; we wish you all Godspeed,” Ananias says sadly.

They shake hands, and the women hug one another as they say their goodbyes and well wishes.

John calls out to the fort.

“What’s coming is surely not heaven-sent; the devil rides the clouds, and if you value your lives, you will leave as we are.”

He then turns to help push off from the shore. From the boat, he continued talking to the people still onshore as they rowed away from the Island as fast as they could. No one noticed that Jacob had inscribed Croatian on one tree just outside the fort but did not have time to complete the same inscription on the second tree, which bears only CRO. As they rowed away, Potter ordered the gates to remain open while many walked out to the water’s edge to watch their dear friends row away in the distance. Then, they turned to look at the woods where the three men came running and saw nothing. Some in the fort laughed and yet wondered if they should have followed. Potter walks out to the edge of the woods holding the lapels of his vest, peering into the forest, and then walks back to the gate. Potter decrees as he stands at the entrance, turning to watch the boat as it goes on.

“No one should go off hunting in the direction that John, Levi, and Jacob came from.” Pointing into the woods. “If you do, you will be touched by the same witchery as they.” Pointing in the direction of the boat that rowed away.

Some walked out to the shore, looking at each other and ignoring Potters’ decree.

“They were afraid of something; I’ve never seen them panic like that.” Ananias Dare remarks.

“What in God’s name do you think it was?” Rufus Tanner asks.

"God only knows my good fellow," Ananias replied.

"They may be right." Says Edger Walter.

"About what?" Asks Ananias.

"Have you ever seen animals behave in like manner before this?" Asks Edger.

"Can't say that I have," Ananias replied.

They looked at each other and then turned and stared into the woods. Then, they turned to watch the little fishing boat until they were too far in the distance to see. The women were holding their hands to their mouths, wishing they could have said goodbye. Then, they all walked back into the fort, giving Potter a stern look.

"You better be damn right about this old man," Ananias warned.

"I haven't been wrong so far," Potter answers arrogantly.

Ananias walks away, joined by his wife Eleanor and daughter Virginia, and heads to their home to pray, as did many others.

The men began to skin and butcher their kill and process the meats with salt. It has been over an hour since Levi, Jacob, and John left the fort.

Mr. Morgan, one of the colonists, asked Potter, "Where do you think they will go?"

"To hell, I hope," Potter said. Then he looks up at the colony with a big smile and offers a toast, "Eat, drink, and be merry. The Lord has sent us manna from heaven."

Three hours after Levi and his friends rowed away from Roanoke, the entire colony is still alive with singing and hymns until there is a scream, and the colony comes to a standstill. Outside the gate, a great fog had massed around the fort but had yet to enter. Potter then orders the men at the entrance.

"Close the gate, close the gate!" He shouts in nervous fear.

The men approached the gate in fear. They noticed that the fog that creped across the Island was as thick as the woods. They quietly and slowly closed the gate, but the thick black and gray cloud did not enter. It sat like a lion that toyed with its prey before it killed it. Everyone in the fort began to run to their homes, wondering what the strange fog would do next. The fort walls began to creak loudly and move as if they were breathing as the fog pressed against them. The women started to scream while the men tried to hold brave faces.

Ananias ran, witnessing the strange cloud. "Potter, you arrogant bastard, we should have listened to Levi and left with them," Ananias said.

"It's only fog, you fool. How many times in England have you awakened to a clear morning, only to have the fog weigh in not two hours later, unable to see the very nose on your face? Potter responds.

"It didn't move when we closed the door to the gate." Said one of the men who closed the gate fearful and angrily.

"Poppy-cock, Potter said, this fort is as solid as a...." The fort walls creaked even louder than the first. Potter swallows his words.

Potter could no longer hold his water; those around him saw that he had soiled his pants.

The fog began to crawl over the fort walls as most of the men and women watched in horror, and then they watched it build up above them like a domed roof. The fort was as dark as midnight as many colonists prayed in their homes. Then, the fog collapsed inside the fort; it moved without hesitation, engulfing every home. The settlers were huddled in the corners of their rooms when they began filling with the fog's mist. The women tried to hold their mouths to keep from screaming but were all overcome with fear. Screams echoed throughout the fort.

When John White returned from England to Roanoke Island in 1590, no one was there to meet him as he approached the fort. Walking ashore, they found the gate open and the fort empty. Fear gripped his

heart, seeing no one in the fort and having no sign of his family. Weeds have grown inside the fort, suggesting the fort was empty for a while.

“Tell me you’ve found something?” John pleaded.

“Not a thing, Sir. Looking at the weeds and brushes that have overtaken the place, it looks like they abandoned the fort more than a year ago.” The soldier says.

Another soldier calls out. “Sir, you may want to take a look at this.”

“What?” John asks.

“Outside, Sir.” The soldier suggests.

Outside the fort, they point at the post with Croatian inscription on one and *CRO* on another. Now believing his family and the other colonists had moved to the Croatian Islands just south of Roanoke Island, He decided to sail there based on the carvings left on the post. When John White and his crew decided to voyage to the Croatian Island, gale-force winds forced them to abandon the expedition. Sorrowfully, John White returned to England, never returning to search for his family. The colony is deemed *The Lost Colony* to this day.