Amadas, Philip [1]

Amadas, Philip

by John W. Shirley, 1979
See Also: Amadas and Barlowe Expedition [2]

ca. 1565–?

von der Gelegenheit vnd Sitten der Wilden in Virginia, 1590. [3]Philip Amadas, naval commander and explorer, was the son of John and Jane Amadas of Plymouth, England. In his youth he released his estate in the manors of Trethake, Penkelewe, to Sir Walter Raleigh [4] and became a member of his household. It is from this association that he was sent in 1584, at age nineteen, to explore the coast of America for a suitable site for Raleigh's proposed colony. Amadas, like Arthur Barlowe [5], was captain of his own flagship, the*Bark Ralegh*, with Simon Fernandez [6] as master and pilot. On 13 July 1584 they arrived at an inlet leading to an island named Roanoke [7] by the natives. This inlet they named Port Ferdinando after the pilot, who was the first to discover it. For six weeks, Amadas and Barlowe explored and traded, visiting chief Wingina [8] on Roanoke Island, before returning to England with the IndiansManteo [9] and Wanchese [10] on board.

The next year, 1585, Amadas, now given the title Admiral of Virginia and second in naval command to Sir Richard Grenville, sailed again for the New World on the *Tiger.* [11] He remained on Roanoke Island under the governance ofSir Ralph Lane [12] for a year and possibly served as both admiral and colonel. He may also have been leader of the Chesapeake Bay expedition and was perhaps instrumental in making entrenchments for the Roanoke Island fort. In June 1586, Amadas and his fellow colonists left for England in Sir Francis Drake's [13] ships. From that time on, nothing further is known of Philip Amadas.

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Additional Resources:

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Biographies [22]
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1 January 1979 | Shirley, John W.

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