

## **Virginia** <sup>[1]</sup>



**"Sir Walter  
Raleigh- the  
True and  
Lively."  
Engraving, no  
date. Image  
courtesy of  
Library of  
VirginiaCongress.**

<sup>[2]</sup>

by William S. Powell, 2006

See also: [Exploration, European- Part 3: Sir Walter Raleigh and the Arrival of the English](#)<sup>[3]</sup>; [Raleigh, Sir Walter](#) <sup>[4]</sup>

Virginia was the name applied to that part of the New World granted to [Sir Walter Raleigh](#) <sup>[4]</sup> by England's Queen Elizabeth I, the "virgin queen." It appears for the first time on the seal issued to Raleigh as "Lord and Governor of Virginia" at some unspecified date prior to 25 Mar. 1585. He was entitled to discover, hold, and occupy "such remote heathen and barbarous landes . . . not actually possessed of any Christian Prynce and inhabited by Christian people." Raleigh based exploratory expeditions in and attempted to colonize the area of coastal North America that is now North Carolina. His men also ranged northward into the Chesapeake Bay. Even though Raleigh's attempts were unsuccessful, the name "Virginia" became attached to newer colonization efforts that resulted in the establishment of [Jamestown](#) <sup>[5]</sup> in 1607. The site of the 1584-90 activity came to be called "[Ould Virginia](#)" <sup>[6]</sup>.

### **References:**

Philip L. Barbour, ed., *The Complete Works of Captain John Smith (1580-1631)*, vol. 2 (1986).

David B. Quinn, ed., *The Roanoke Voyages*, vol. 1 (1955).

### **Additional Resources:**

Sir Walter Raleigh Collection at UNC Chapel Hill Libraries: <http://www.lib.unc.edu/ncc/ref/swr/history.html> <sup>[7]</sup>

North Carolina/Virginia, NC Historical Marker A-35, NC Office of Archives & History:  
<https://www.ncdcr.gov/about/history/division-historical-resources/nc-highway-historical-marker-program/Markers.aspx?sp=Markers&k=Markers&sv=A-35> <sup>[8]</sup>

First English Colonies, NC Historical Marker B-1, NC Office of Archives & History:  
<https://www.ncdcr.gov/about/history/division-historical-resources/nc-highway-historical-marker-program/Markers.aspx?sp=Markers&k=Markers&sv=B-1> <sup>[9]</sup>

### **Image Credit:**

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**Subjects:**

Colonial period (1600-1763) <sup>[10]</sup>

Precolonial period (pre-1600) <sup>[11]</sup>

**Authors:**

Powell, William S. <sup>[12]</sup>

**Origin - location:**

Coastal Plain <sup>[13]</sup>

**From:**

Encyclopedia of North Carolina, University of North Carolina Press. <sup>[14]</sup>

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