

Modern Version of Excerpts of Accounts from the Early Years

EXCERPT ONE

Thanks to God, our deadly enemies saved us by bringing food—great amounts of bread, corn, fish, and meat. This food saved all of us weak and starving men. Otherwise we would all have died. Leaders from other tribes also brought us food and supplies which made us comfortable.

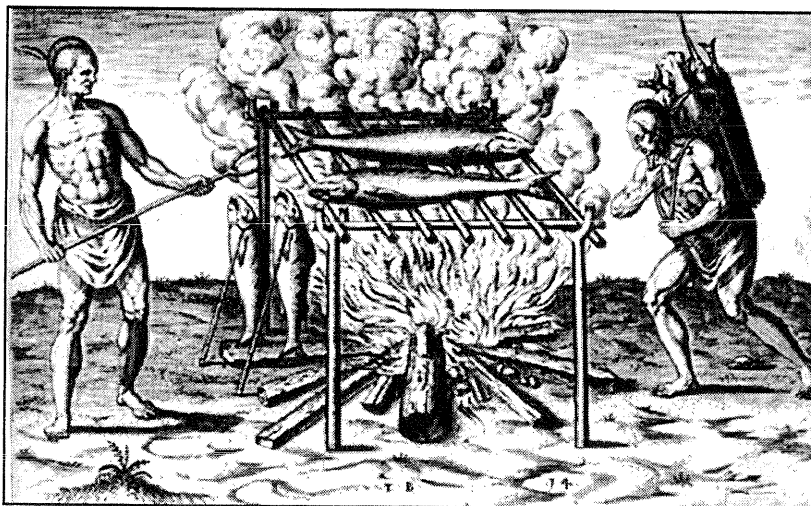
EXCERPT TWO

Six months after Captain Smith left, the cruelty of the [Powhatans], the stupidity of our leaders, and the loss of our ships [when they sailed away] caused 440 of the 500 people in Jamestown to die. . . .

We still call this time the “Starving Time.” What we suffered was too terrible to talk about and too hard to believe. But the fault was our own. We starved because we did not plan well, work hard, or have good government. Our problems were not because the land was bad, as most people believe.

EXCERPT THREE

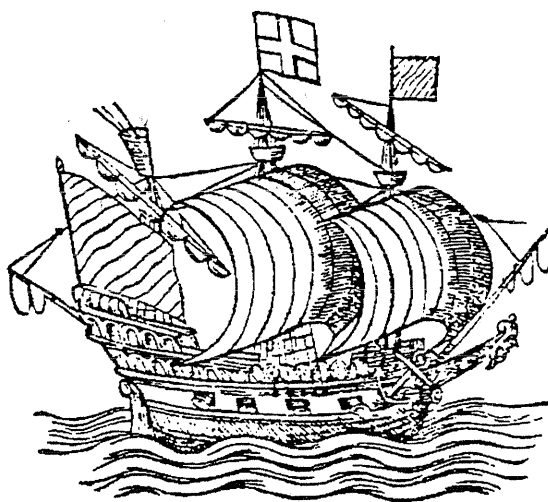
It was the Spaniards’ good luck to find lands where there were huge numbers of people who worked so hard that there was always food. These people were so advanced they developed the use of gold and silver and the other things their land provided. The Spanish pillaged and robbed these people. They did not work for what they got. If these rich countries had been as savage, as barbarous (uncivilized), as poorly planted and with as few people as Virginia, then the Spanish would not have made any more profits than we made.



**The browyllinge [broiling] of
their fishe ouer [over] the flame**
Engraving by Theodore de Bry in
Thomas Hariot, *A Briefe and True Report
of the New Found Land of Virginia* (1590).

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1609.

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