

## North Carolina's 'Men of Mystery,' The Croatans, May Be Descendants of Sir Walter Raleigh's 'Lost Colony'

By **ELMO SCOTT WATSON**  
(Released by Western Newspaper Union.)

**I**N ROBESON county, North Carolina, live nearly 10,000 Americans who are truly "men of mystery." Their racial origins are lost in the scant history of the very first phase of the white men's conquest of America. Proud of their race and its traditions, they have lived largely to themselves for the last 200 years, consistently holding themselves aloof from the endless debate which historians and ethnologists have held over the subject of who were the forebears of these people.



**SARAH DIAL**  
Croatan Indian coed who is an accomplished violinist.

silence. They found only the footprints of the Indians who had fled at their approach but on a tree was carved the letters C.R.O. Pushing on to the site of the "Cittie of Raleigh" they discovered that the houses had been taken down and the place enclosed with a high palisade. On one of the posts at the right side of the entrance was carved the word "Croatan."

Are they descendants of Sir Walter Raleigh's "Lost Colony," including the romantic Virginia Dare, "the first English child born in what is now the United States?" Some historians are convinced they are, even though positive proof of that fact may never be established.

### Raleigh's Ill-Fated Colony.

It was in 1587 that Sir Walter Raleigh sent out his third expedition to colonize Virginia. Headed by John White, who was to be governor of "The Cittie of Raleigh in Virginia," the colony included 17 women and children, among them White's daughter, Elyoner (Eleanor), who had married Ananias Dare.

Because of trouble with his crew, White was not able to take the colonists to a location on Chesapeake bay as instructed. Instead he stopped at Roanoke island in search of 15 men left behind the previous year by Sir Richard Greenville, leader of another Raleigh expedition. After they landed, White decided to remain on Roanoke island for a time at least and set about building a town.

There, according to a letter written by Governor White to Raleigh, on "the 18th (August, 1587) Elyoner, daughter to the governor and wife to Ananias Dare, one of the assistants, was delivered of a daughter in Roanoke, and the same was christ-



An old Croatan Indian farmer whose prosperity is indicated by the weight of his solid gold watch chain.

ened there the Sunday following and because this child was the first Christian born in Virginia, she was named "Virginia." Soon afterwards White decided to return to England. He started on August 27, leaving 120 settlers at Roanoke. When he arrived in England he found that country busy with preparations to resist the Spanish Armada. His fleet of vessels was seized by the government and when he assembled another it was driven back by pirates near Madeira.

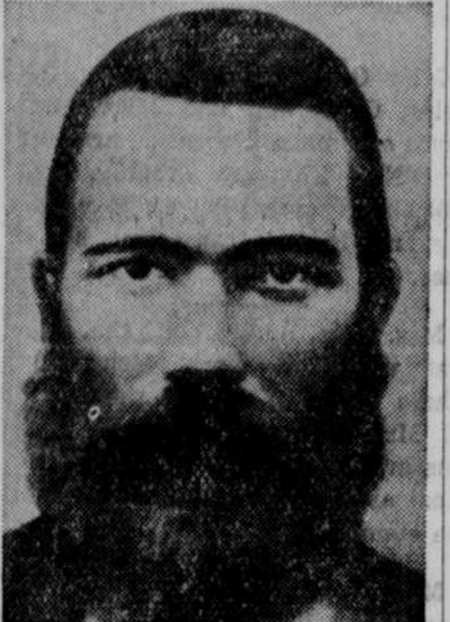
So it was not until 1590 that he was able to obtain passage to America. This was on a privateer fleet of three vessels sent out to prey upon Spanish commerce. After a series of adventures with the enemy, they finally reached Roanoke island at night and were cheered by the sight of smoke rising and a fire glowing through the trees. When they reached the shore at the north end of the island they blew trumpets and sang familiar English songs.

Carved on a Tree.  
But instead of the joyous welcome which they expected to receive, they were greeted with

The best known name in Croatan history is that of Henry Berry Lowrie, the famed outlaw previously mentioned. The state put a price of \$10,000 on his head, dead or alive, and anyone who killed or captured a member of his gang was given half as much. A number were killed in gun fights but in the entire history of the gang's operations only one member was ever captured and held long enough to be executed by the state. What finally became of Lowrie is almost as much a mystery as the antecedents of the tribe.

### Driven to Outlawry.

As hated as the Lowrie gang was in the days when its robberies and murders were common occurrence, those who in recent years have studied its history are inclined to place much of the blame on the whites. Among these historians is R. C. Lawrence, an attorney who has devoted the last several years of his life to writing and to research. In the first place, the Indians who volunteered or were conscripted for service in the Civil war frequently were placed with gangs of negro slaves and assigned to work rather than to fight. Many immediately deserted. The final straw was the summary execu-



**HENRY BERRY LOWRIE**  
Famous Croatan Indian outlaw (From an old daguerreotype)

tion of Lowrie's father and brother by members of the home guard, who were investigating instances of petty thievery. On that day Henry Berry swore revenge and regardless of where the blame lay, there is no doubt that he got it.

Most persistent in the war against the Lowrie gang was Frank W. Wishart, formerly a captain of the Confederate army, who was commissioned by the state to run the outlaws down. Along with many others, he was killed by the gang, but Lawrence writes that he is due more credit than any other individual for the eventual success of the campaign.

How and why the gang dissolved is uncertain. One story is that the chief accidentally killed himself while cleaning his rifle. Another is that he called the gang together, formally dissolved it, and left this vicinity forever. Once a group of men from Lumberton, the seat of this county, thought they recognized as Henry Berry Lowrie an old man, obviously part Indian, they found working around a hotel in Oklahoma. The next day they sought to investigate, but the Indian had disappeared and no one was to be found who knew where he had come from.

But the Lowrie name and Lowrie leadership is still to be found here and members of the family are proud of Henry Berry Lowrie, whom they consider another Robin Hood. One of his great nephews, Principal Kermit Lowrie of the Indian school, has as his most prized possession old Henry Berry's favorite rifle. Other descendants of the members of the gang are among the largest landowners of this primarily agricultural region. Their sons go to college and many have made names for themselves in various professions.

The once strained relations between the Indians and the whites of this section are now harmonious. The real turning point came, say the Indians, when more than half a century ago the state of North Carolina recognized them as a race apart and provided separate schools. Today there are three kinds of schools in this county—the Indians, whites and negroes each having institutions of their own. A theater in a nearby town has a separate entrance for members of each race. And in Pembroke the state has operated an Indian school since 1887.

"It's still too early to talk much about it," said one of the younger leaders of the community, "but I wouldn't be surprised if some day we wouldn't readopt the name of Croatan. I know something about the history of my people and to my way of thinking, it's a name of which we should be proud."

## Endearing and Enduring Charm Of Quality-Kind Silk Prints

By **CHERIE NICHOLAS**



weave. The cool-looking frost-white jewelry and the wide brim white hat confirm the forthcoming importance of white accents and accessories.

**F**ABRICS may come and fabrics may go but ever-lovely, ever-flattering silk prints will live on in the affection of the fashion world forever. When an unexpected last-minute invitation bids you hurry and join in a bridge party at your neighbor's; or a voice over the phone says "Meet me in an hour at the club for dinner," or your sorority club calls for an impromptu get-together luncheon in honor of an unexpected out-of-town guest, we'll wager that it's the gay little silk print frock that answers the momentous what to wear question for most women.

In regard to the three silk prints in the illustration, they are decidedly pace-setting fashions. Recently a second semi-annual fashion seminar was successfully staged by Amena Elliott Webster in Chicago. The vast audience at this all-day session which drew teachers and students in home economics from schools and colleges, and members of women's clubs and various organizations from near and far, was thrilled with a very style-revealing and highly educational number on the program—which featured "Textiles Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow." Included in the fashions that went on parade in this noteworthy fabric demonstration were the originals of the modes here pictured which, be assured, gives these prints of pure silk unquestioned style prestige.

The high spot about the dress and coat ensemble to the right is the fact that a bowknot silk crepe fashions it, and bowknots, you must know, are tremendously important throughout a design this season. If you are in quest of a new silk print ask to see bowknot patternings. They're the latest! The dress features a gathered yoke of twin print sheer, and the simple coat is a heavier

When you buy silk print this season you do not stop at a mere dress-length of material but you will want to have the fun of fashioning an entire ensemble of gay print, which may include not only a matching hat, but gloves and parasol made of the same print. The biggest news of all is shoulder shawls made of squares of silk print finished off about the edges with hand knotted fringe. The costume ensemble of red and white printed silk crepon to the left, adds a pillbox chapeau that is draped with matching crepon. Note the finely shirred white silk inserts that exquisitely detail the bodice top of the dress. Speaking of the color scheme of this striking costume, too much emphasis cannot be given the importance of red and white. Red and white prints are having a stupendous vogue, and as to red hats and gloves, bags, belts and red "hankies" watch the reports coming in from all style centers!

Navy silk crepe, in spaced white tulip design describes the material used for the dress centered in the picture. This brings out a very important style trend this season in silk prints, namely the two-color idea—one single color against a contrasting color background, such as yellow or light green on gray, brown on white, or reverse the order, white on brown. Which reminds that brown prints are ever so smart, almost outrivaling navies or grays. Sunburst pleating over the bust and vertical stitched tucks below the waist are important styling details observed in the tulip print pictured. Here's something interesting in regard to the white straw cartwheel she wears—the brim is removable leaving a fitted little toque-like shape of coarse straw mesh with a flange across the back which may be worn on into the evening for informal dinner and dancing.

(Released by Western Newspaper Union.)

### Hats of Fabric



Milliners are doing interesting things with fabrics these days. Enthusiasm for polka dots is widespread and their popularity is reflected in a big way in hat design. The use of polka dots is manifested in such clever ideas as large straw brims faced with dotted prints or in drapes and scarf streamers of bold dot fabrics, especially silk prints. Particularly attractive are scarf and hat ensembles as here pictured. Plaids, likewise stripes, for hat and bag sets also are making big appeal. The plaid silk hat and bag twosome shown interprets this trend.

### Family Heirlooms With Bridal Array

You can believe everything you read in the society columns about the sparkling beauty of the bride. It's all true and it's all real because brides are wearing jewels again. They are even arranging their veils to fall from the family tiara or combining mother's heirloom lace with the bridegroom's gift of a modern clip or brooch. Notice how often you read in the social notes "the bride wore just one lovely ornament—a pin that belonged to her mother."

Some girls even prefer a diamond instead of a wedding check—not so lightly cashed and spent! Also the symbolism of this gem (it's ancient meaning was purity, fidelity and devotion) makes a lucky talisman for the bride.

Of course all the revival fashions in wedding gowns, with their tight little waists, square necks or round collars, and puffs of tulle and satin form the perfect background for traditional jewelry.

### Variety in Fabrics Tempt Milliners

Milliners are no respecters of fabrics this season. They use anything and everything from silks and jersies and nets and meshes and veiling to calicoes and gingham, bright flowered chintz and the new hats with enormous brims of spick and span white starched lace are simply "dreams come true."

The smart trick this season is to have a hat made of the same material as your dress. For an exciting eye-catcher wear with your black or navy sheer this summer a hat of picturesque broad brim fashioned of very flowery chintz and see to it that your bag of ample proportions is made of the identical chintz.

## AROUND the HOUSE Items of Interest to the Housewife

A rubber band wrapped near each end of coat hangers will prevent garments from slipping off them.

Always melt marshmallows in the top of a double boiler over hot water.

Flour sifters and kitchen strainers should be dried thoroughly before storing.

Black shoe polish stains may be removed by rubbing them with warm water and soap. Rub brown stains with alcohol.

Always wash rice before cooking. Put the rice in a strainer and wash it in cold water, placing the strainer over a bowl of water. Change the water and repeat three times or until the water is clear.

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