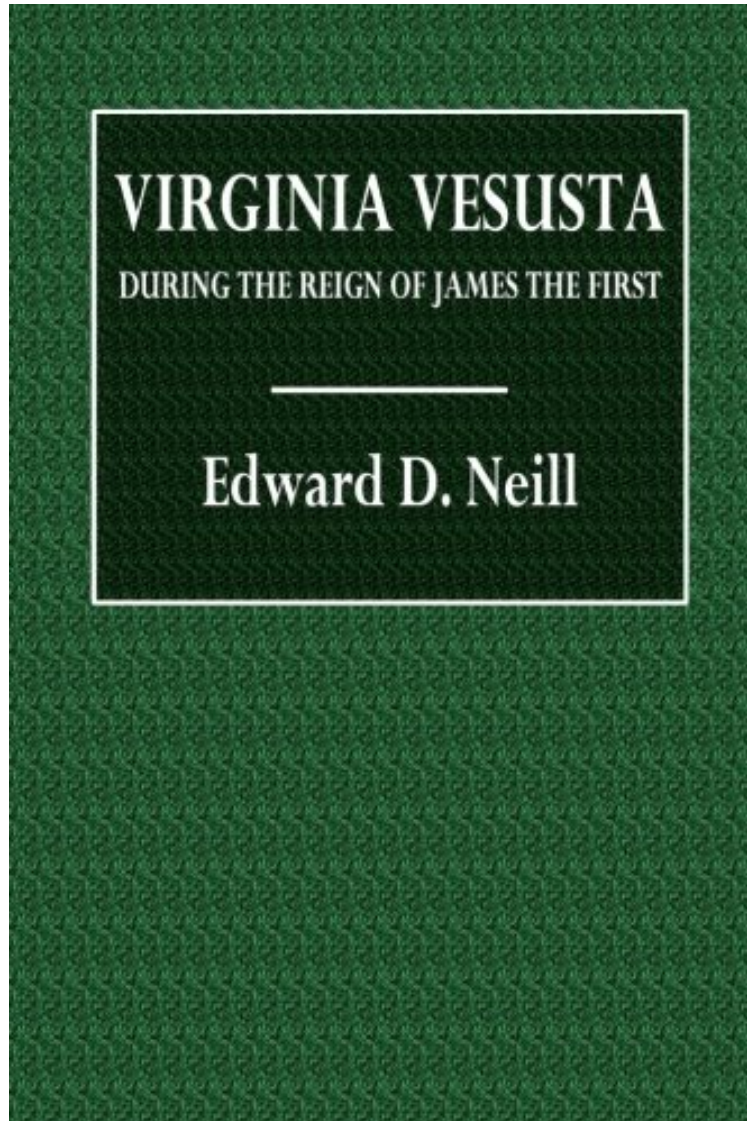


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Virginia Vetusta: During the Reign of James the First

Edward D. Neill

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Edward D. Neill : Virginia Vetusta: During the Reign of James the First before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Virginia Vetusta: During the Reign of James the First:

From the PREFACE. ON the belief, that there was need of such a contribution, to the documentary history, of the early colonial period of Virginia, this work has been prepared. It is intended to supplement the History of the Virginia

Company of London, which was published several years ago, and has proved of some value to the students of American history. It is quite remarkable, that for two centuries, historical writers chiefly depended upon a book compiled by an adventurer, for a knowledge of the early English colonization in North America. The once Deputy Governor of Virginia, George Percy, in a letter, to his brother Henry the 9th Earl of Northumberland, refers to a publication, "wherein the author hath not spared to appropriate many deserts to himself, which he never performed, and stuffed his relations with so many falsities, and malicious detractions." As yet no document of the period of James the First, has been discovered, which tells where the church was situated, in which John Rolfe was married to Pocahontas, and the name of the officiating clergyman. There is evidence however, that Rolfe, in 1609, left England with a white wife, and that she gave birth to a daughter at Bermudas, who soon died. Hamor writes, that "about the fifth of April," 1614, Rolfe began to live with the Indian woman, and he is supposed, then, to have been a widower. With Pocahontas he went to England, and in March, 1617, she died at Gravesend. Rolfe returned to Virginia, and soon married Jane, a daughter of William Pierce, Governor of Jamestown, "inferior to none in experience, industry and capacity" who in 1609, had left England, in the same vessel, with Rolfe. Early in 1622 Rolfe died, leaving his widow Jane, and in the words of his will two small children of very tender age, a son Thomas, about three years old, and a daughter Elizabeth, one year of age. In 1623, the father of the widow went to England, and as Jane Rolfe, and her son Thomas, are not mentioned in the census, of January, 1624 (O. S.), while the daughter, now four years old, is noted as residing with a Captain Roger Smith of Jamestown, an officer who had served twelve years in the wars of the Netherlands, now one of the Virginia Council, it seems probable, that Capt. William Pierce had taken his daughter, and grandson Thomas with him. At Sculthorpe Rectory, Co. Norfolk, England, there is a portrait of a wife of John Rolfe, with a son, by her side. Her hair is parted in the middle, there is no head ornament, and the face has a natural expression. It represents a woman in the dress of the period, about thirty years of age. This portrait once belonged to the Rolfes of Norfolk. In Manning and Bray's History of Surrey it is mentioned that Thomas Rolfe married in England, had a son Anthony, whose daughter Hannah married Sir Thomas Leigh.