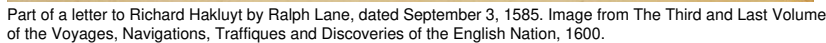


"Goodliest Soile under the Cope of Heaven"

"Goodliest Soile under the Cope of Heaven" is the phrase used by [Ralph Lane](#) ^[3], leader of one of [Sir Walter Raleigh](#) ^[4]'s [Roanoke voyages](#) ^[5], to describe the coastal region of North Carolina. Lane penned the description in a letter to Richard Hakluyt the elder on 3 Sept. 1585. The oft-quoted phrase, which is sometimes rendered incorrectly as the "Goodliest lande under the cope of heaven," is revered by North Carolinians as a romantic and fitting expression of the natural beauty of the state.



David B. Quinn, ed., *The Roanoke Voyages, 1584-1590*, vol. 1 (repr., 1967).

Lane, Ralph. "An Extract of Master Ralph Lane's Letter to M. Richard Hakluyt, Esquire, and Another Gentleman of the Middle Temple, from Virginia." *Explorations, Descriptions, and Attempted Settlements of Carolina, 1584-1590*. Raleigh, N.C.: State Department of Archives and History. 1948. p.33 <https://archive.org/stream/explorationsdesc00corb/page/32/mode/2up> ¹⁷

"Lane Colony Letters and Reports." N.C. Department of Public Instruction. <http://www.dpi.state.nc.us/docs/curriculum/socialstudies/middlegrades/discovernc/3discoverncroanokeisland.pdf> [9]

"The Settlement at Roanoke: What problems did the settlers face? Source 1." Durham University Museums and Special Collections <http://www.dur.ac.uk/4schools/Roanoke/CS1s1large.htm> [10]

Part of a letter to Richard Hakluyt by Ralph Lane, dated September 3, 1585. Image from *The Third and Last Volume of the Voyages, Navigations, Traffiques and Discoveries of the English Nation* London. 1600. p.254-255. From "The Settlement at Roanoke: What problems did the settlers face? Source 1." Durham University Museums and Special Collections. <https://community.dur.ac.uk/4schools/resources/Roanoke/default.htm> ^[6]

Precolonial period (pre-1600) ^[11]

Slogans, slang, and sayings ^[12]

Powell, William S.^[13]

Encyclopedia of North Carolina, University of North Carolina Press.[14]

1 January 2006 | Powell, William S.

Source URL:<https://www.ncpedia.org/goodliest-soile-under-cope-heaven>

[1] <https://www.ncpedia.org/goodliest-soile-under-cope-heaven/> [2] <https://www.ncpedia.org/biography/powell-william> [3] <https://www.ncpedia.org/lane-exploration> [4] <https://www.ncpedia.org/europeans-exploration-part-3-sir> [5] <https://www.ncpedia.org/roanoke-voyages> [6] <https://community.dur.ac.uk/4schools/resources/Roanoke/default.htm> [7] <https://archive.org/stream/explorationsdesc00orb/page/32/mode/2up> [8] [http://books.google.com/books?id=EOECT_ZPdHUC&pg=PA94&pg=42%20Goodliest%20Soile%20under%20the%20Cope%20of%20Heaven%22&pg=PA94&pg=42%20Goodliest%20Soile%20under%20the%20Cope%20of%20H](http://books.google.com/books?id=EOECT_ZPdHUC&pg=PA94&ots=1B708HgFL&pg=42%20Goodliest%20Soile%20under%20the%20Cope%20of%20Heaven%22&pg=PA94&pg=42%20Goodliest%20Soile%20under%20the%20Cope%20of%20H) [9] www.dpi.state.nc.us/docs/curriculum/socialstudies/middlegrades/discover/3discover/roanokeisland.pdf [10] <http://www.dur.ac.uk/4schools/Roanoke/CS151large.htm> [11] <https://www.ncpedia.org/category/subjects/prehistory> [12] <https://www.ncpedia.org/category/subjects/slang> [13] <https://www.ncpedia.org/category/authors/powell-william-s-0> [14] <https://www.ncpedia.org/category/enry-source/enyclopedia-ncpedia>