

HISTORY OF HOG ISLAND, VA.



EXT to Jamestown, the first settlement made in Virginia, the most interesting spot in that State to the antiquarian is Hog Island, on the Atlantic coast.

It was the redoubtable John Smith who first discovered this place.

The second day after he landed at Smith Island and planted the English flag for the first time in the New World, he started out on a voyage along the coast, when a great storm arose and his boat filled, and he escaped as he said "by ye mercy of God."

He named the island upon which he landed Shooting Bears Island; as the small species of bruin which to this day abound in the cane-brakes of the Dismal Swamp were numerous on the new found isle.

It is a great pity that this place did not retain its Indian name of Machipongo Island—which, translated, means 'Fine dust and flies'—literally, fine sand and mosquitoes, the two inflictions that plague the natives, and made the island uninhabitable to the thin-skinned, thinly clad Indians, who only visited it at certain periods of the year to fish and hunt.