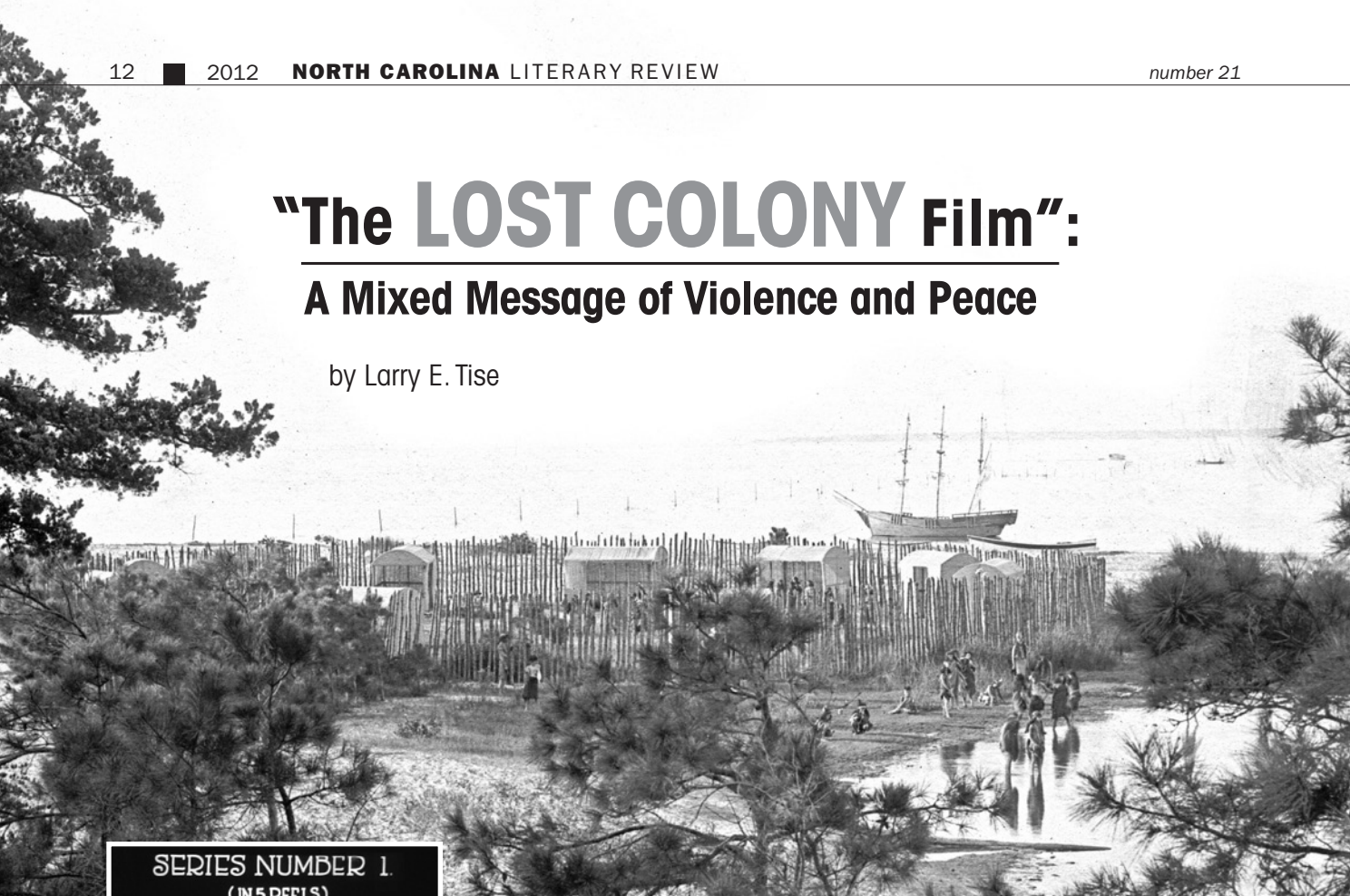


“The LOST COLONY Film”:

A Mixed Message of Violence and Peace

by Larry E. Tise



COURTESY OF LARRY TISE AND THE NORTH CAROLINA STATE ARCHIVES

SERIES NUMBER 1
(IN 5 REELS.)

COVERING THE EARLIEST
ENGLISH EXPEDITIONS AND
ATTEMPTED SETTLEMENTS
IN THE TERRITORY OF WHAT
IS NOW THE UNITED STATES
1584 · 1591

COURTESY OF LARRY TISE
AND THE ROANOKE ISLAND
HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

Long before Paul Green sat down to script his iconic outdoor symphonic drama *The Lost Colony* (1937), another band of Outer Bankers decided they would latch onto a growing American craze for movies in order to tell the story of Raleigh’s Roanoke colonies. Thus in 1921, this group pulled together the money, local talent, and a Chicago film company to depict in a silent film much the same historical terrain that would later absorb Green. The film was shot on what was believed to be the historic location of Fort Raleigh on Roanoke Island. In the resulting movie, Raleigh’s English explorers explored; Manteo and Wanchese went to England; Virginia Dare was born and baptized; Manteo was baptized too and made Lord Governor of Roanoke; John White went back to England for supplies. When White eventually returned three years later – delayed by the Spanish Armada – he wept that his granddaughter was not there and was puzzled but reassured when he found the word “CROATOAN” carved in a tree.

ABOVE TOP
The film set on
Roanoke Island

ABOVE BOTTOM
Title card from “The
Lost Colony Film”