

were described as the most remote of all the islands yet found in the world. From this date many years seemed to have elapsed without anything being recorded about them, except an occasional wreck, or stories of the old buccaneers, who were said to hold court here after some of their successful raids on the Spanish Main, and tradition even now informs us of untold wealth being buried about amongst the islands. Perhaps the earliest authentic account is that given by one of the crew of the *Sea Adventure*, a vessel that was wrecked off the coast in 1609. It appears this vessel had been fitted out in England to convey the newly appointed Governor, Sir Thomas Gates, together with Admiral Sir George Somers and other officials, to the recently formed colony of Virginia; meeting with a dreadful storm, and suffering great privations, their vessel was run on shore, and became a complete wreck. The islands were found to be uninhabited, although there were evident traces of earlier visitors, for hogs were found to be very numerous, having probably been set adrift by them. Fish and turtle were also abundant; and, finding the climate so pleasant and the land so productive, a year passed before any attempt was made to get away; by which time they had managed to build a small vessel, and in May 1610 they set sail for their original destination.

On reaching Virginia, they found the colony so badly off for the necessaries of life that Sir George