“History, Mystery, and Fantasy”: Public Memory of the Early Modern Moment in the New World

Megan K. Mize | English, Old Dominion University
The Elizabethan Gardens of Manteo

Down the centuries, English women have built gardens to the glory of God, the beauty of the countryside and the comfort of their souls.

The women of the Garden Club of North Carolina have planted this garden in memory of the valiant men and women who founded the first English Colony in America.

From this hallowed ground they walked away through the dark forest and into history. - Inglis Fletcher
Origins of the Gardens

Ruth Cannon

Inglis Fletcher

Sir Evelyn Wrench and Lady Hylda Wrench
History, mystery and fantasy are combined in these special gardens created by the Garden Club of North Carolina in 1951 as a living memorial to the first English Colonists who came to explore the New World in 1584-1587 and to settle on Roanoke Island.
Simulating the Past
Things to do when you visit The Elizabethan Gardens

- Gaze out at the lapping waves from the Overlook Terrace. Ponder if this same sight delighted the colonists who once stood upon these shores.

- At the Well-Head Mount notice the family crests, figures and wonder who came to drink at this refreshing well.
Simulating the Past
Fanciful Gendering

Things to do when you visit The Elizabethan Gardens

● Touch the lace details on Queen Elizabeth’s gown.

● Visit the Virginia Dare statue. Perhaps she will tell you the mystery of the lost colony?

● Stand alongside the Ancient Live Oak tree and revel in her outstretched arms.
Fanciful Gendering
Enduring Remembrance

TOURING THE GARDENS

Enjoy a FREE audio tour of The Gardens powered by OnCell.

Visit here or use your cell phone onsite during your visit. This free tour is available both on your phone and using the OnCell app.

The map below is available to you at The Gardens for your visit.
Enduring Remembrance

ANNIVERSARY
1951-2016
THE ELIZABETHAN GARDENS
Enduring Remembrance
Time Stops in Our Gardens