

LAND OF OPPORTUNITY

By our pamphleteer, London, England
December 31, 1616

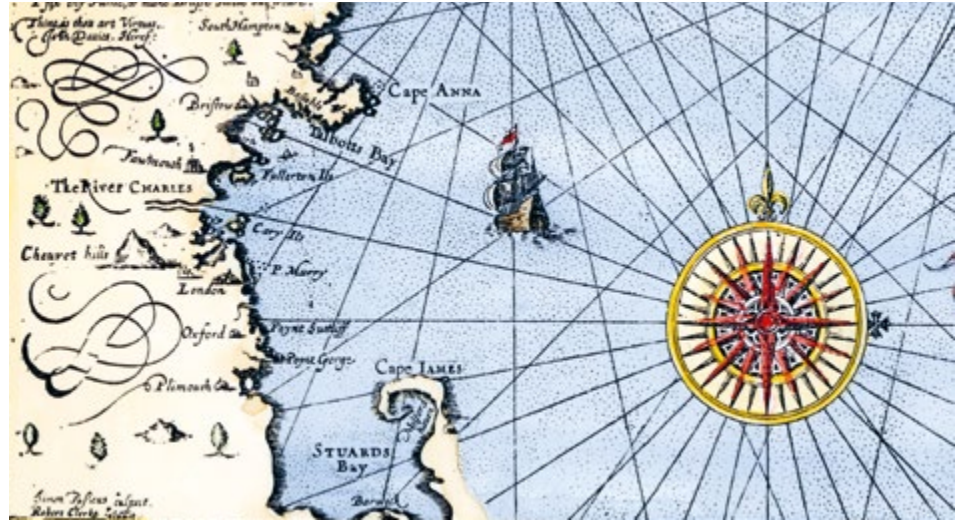
NEW ENGLAND is the perfect place to make a new and prosperous life in North America, according to Captain John Smith. You may have heard of Smith, as he is known to be an early leader of the first lasting English colony in North America at Jamestown, Virginia.

After recent voyages to explore its magnificent coast, Captain Smith is promoting the region as the ideal location for settlement. He has named it “New England” and published a map of the coastal area containing English place-names, some of which were provided by Prince Charles, son of King James I of England.

For years, European seafarers have been fishing the waters off Cape Cod and the rest of New England, the homeland of Native Americans, but no one from Europe has so far established a colony there. Smith believes there are huge opportunities for agriculture, industry, and commerce such as fishing, farming, and fur-trading.

While the Captain failed to find gold on his earlier expeditions, any Englishman who settles there will become master and owner of his own labor and land. With hard work, colonists will quickly grow rich. But reaping the rewards will mean risking their lives to survive wild animals and harsh winters.

Native people are numerous in New England.



According to reports, they live together in villages, cultivating corn and other crops. Chiefs, known as sachems, are responsible for

LONG BEFORE the explorer Christopher Columbus, Norseman Leif Erikson visited North America's northeastern coast, as one of the first Europeans to set foot on the continent. Did he ever reach Cape Cod? In 1497, John Cabot claimed North America's Atlantic lands for England's Henry VII. Virginia, named for the "Virgin Queen" Elizabeth I, was the first of what would become Britain's 13 colonies in North America.

assigning planting areas to the families. They inhabit two homes—one near the coast in summer, the other sheltered inland in winter—but there are no fences to close off lands and make them private property. Their land is owned by the community. Unlike Europeans, they consider the land to be everyone's and not as property to be divided up and privately owned.

This land is said to be rich with raw materials, ideal for settlement. These include giant trees, perfect for making houses and ships. The Native people's lack of interest in land ownership, and the absence of any kind of legal system, make this place a perfect prospect for establishing property rights and growing rich.