

Recovering the 'Lost Century'

Written by Margaret Evans

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Readers who followed our long-running series "Where America REALLY Began" will be interested in these recent developments.

Organized by local business leaders, civic leaders, and scholars, the Santa Elena Foundation has been formed to promote the history of European arrival on the North American coast.

Readers will remember from our series that Spanish settlers established the community of Santa Elena in 1569, the first colonial capital in America. The story of European rivals struggling for dominance in North America involved French, Spanish, and English explorers and their interactions with nations of Native American peoples. The Santa Elena Foundation is dedicated to sharing the little known history of this "lost century" through archaeological research, a cultural interpretive center, and a living history museum.

The foundation's Board of Directors has named Andrew J. Beall (above) as its executive director. He brings to this role extensive executive experience as a global corporate leader. Beall's 30 years in the industrial equipment industry included responsibility for facilities in numerous countries. Living and working internationally, he led teams that established service and manufacturing operations to serve global customers. Beall received his doctorate in business administration from the School of Advanced Studies at University of Phoenix. Since settling in the Lowcountry in 2010, he has volunteered his time with a number of community organizations.

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