



First, I would like to thank the 2010 YALSA Nonfiction Award committee members for honoring *r n r n mm r n o v n mL u r u u min* this way. I am immensely flattered to be a part of this inaugural celebration. I also want to thank the editors, photo researcher, designer, and production people at Carolrhoda Books for their outstanding work. They are my powerhouse crew. Last, but not least, I want to thank the colonial settlers who posthumously shared their lives and deaths with me. Through them, I have gained a new respect for the fortitude and perseverance that were required to survive in colonial America.



of bacteria that entered into the pulp cavity of one of his lower central incisors. Something as small as a damaged tooth could lead to death in colonial America.

### Bartholomew Gosnold

He died in August 1607, at thirty-five years of age. Gosnold was one of to undertake the Jamestown expedition. He died from one of the fever-inducing illnesses that killed more than 50 percent of all colonists within weeks of their arrival. Had he lived, his name would have been well-known to us as one of the founders of Jamestown.

The Leavy Neck boy was probably an indentured servant who died sometime between 1665 and 1677. Although he was only about 15 years old at the time of his death, he already suffered from arthritis in his spine. The muscle attachment scars on his bones reveal that

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bringing a shovel into the house. Instead, a broken piece of pottery, which measures about 12 inches wide, was used to dig his grave. After that, the potsherd was thrown down into his too-short grave.

### Anne Calvert

embodies the word tenacity. Despite all odds—a severely fractured leg bone, medicine that contained arsenic, and the loss of nearly all of her teeth—this woman survived. This was an accomplishment in a place where most people died before they reached the age of 30. Even though

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the remains of these colonial people, I feel a special connection with this young lady. I was present during every step of her discovery and helped lift her remains from her grave.

When you think of the settlers who helped build this country, please remember these people. Thank you for honoring my story of their lives.