
CAPTURED BY OPECHANCAHOUGH by John Smith

Are you all familiar with the movie Pocahontas?

Do you know that Everything We Know About The Disney Movie: Pocahontas Was Actually A Lie? If not then allow me explain to you why.

Real Name: Amonute

Her family called her Matoaka, Pocahontas is just her 2nd nickname.

Born: 1596

Pocahontas saved John Smith from execution in an attempt to make white settlers feel good about the Powhatans culture and not because she loved John Smith.

Name: John Smith

Age: 27

The leader of the colonists

One day he was exploring the land in December of 1607 when he was captured by Opechancanough and other men of Chief Powhatan.

Real Name: Wahunsenacaga

- The Chief of the Powhatans
- The father of Pocahontas
- Opechancanough's brother

Although Spain claimed all of North America under the 1494 Tordesillas Treaty.

King James believed that England could colonize the outer part of Spain's New World Empire.

The Virginia Company operated under King James on 10 April 1606 with the intention of building territories on the North American coast. Investors wished to improve themselves and the England, politically and economically. The Virginia Company of England made a brave

proposal: sail to the new, mysterious land, which they called Virginia in honor of Elizabeth, the Virgin Queen. They established Jamestown, Virginia, on May 14, 1607, the first permanent British settlement in North America. The Virginia stock company is the first company to support the colonization.

The investors hoped to find gold and silver as well as other important trade resources there like glass, iron, fur, coal, gold, silver, and everything else the land could provide. Jamestown was a profit-seeking project funded by investors. The colonists were all young men, mostly gentlemen, and they appeared to be completely unprepared for the difficulties ahead.

The Englishmen travelled using three ships named Susan Constant, Godspeed, and Discovery. They sailed for 40 miles north. 144 Englishmen arrived at the mouth of the Chesapeake Bay, and from the start the settlers battled repeatedly with a group of Algonquian Indians (north Americans) who were Powhatan alliance.

The uninhabited land they had chosen was upriver and out of reach of the Spanish patrols. It provided simple protection against land attackers and was both uninhabited and located near to several Indian villages and their financially valuable trading networks. It made sense, then, to live there. It was not long until the colonists built a fort.

The fort showed their awareness of the need to defend themselves from Indians and Spaniards. However, despite their fears of a Spanish attack, the most serious threats to the Settlers were illness and starvation. The Jamestown location was a mess. The Indians avoided the area for two reasons: terrible soil for agriculture, and brackish tidal water led to a debilitating disease.

The leader of the Colonist was John Smith. John Smith was the son of a yeoman farmer in England. Before Jamestown, he made his way to the Netherlands and joined a rebel army there and engaged in fighting for independence from Spain. In Jamestown, Smith will take command as the crippled colony began to fall apart. The colonist hoped for easy riches but found none. As John Smith later complained, they “would rather starve than work.” And so, they did. Disease and starvation ravaged the colonists, thanks in part to the land’s unhealthy location and the fact that supplies from England arrived sporadically or spoiled. Fewer than half of the original colonists survived the first nine months.

As the colony was starving. John Smith proved himself skillful at securing food from the Virginia Indians. One day he was exploring the land in December of 1607 when he was captured by Opechancanough and other men of Chief Powhatan. Chief Wahunsenacaga or Chief Powhatan as the English called him was leader of the powerful Powhatan Confederacy. The chief wanted information, so he sends his daughter Pocahontas around 11 years old to talk to Smith.

One of the greatest stories that has captivated our historical imagination is a story that while in captivity, Chief Powhatan tried to execute John Smith and Pocahontas saved him by throwing herself on top of John, to stop the execution. However, there is no proof that Pocahontas did that, other historians are saying that the reason why Pocahontas saved John Smith from execution is because she wants to make the white settlers feel good about the Powhatans culture and not because she loved John Smith. What we do know for sure is that the Powhatan kept John alive that first winter. The Powhatan people rescued the weakened and demoralized English colonists by offering them corn. The Powhatan had welcomed the English and placed a high value on metal ax-heads, kettles, tools, and guns and eagerly traded furs and other abundant goods for them. With ten thousand confederated natives and with food in abundance, the Indians had little to fear and much to gain from the isolated outpost of sick and dying Englishmen. After that winter, half of the original colonist was dead by the following spring only the $\frac{1}{4}$ of the Englishmen were still alive. Smith's strong leadership helped the colony survive but he also made him enemies within the fort. As he slept in a boat in the river one night, Smith was badly injured by a mysterious gunpowder explosion. He returned to England for treatment in October 1609 and never set foot in Virginia again. As time when on things continued to get worst for the colonists. Another 400 settlers arrived there again, but the overwhelmed colony entered a desperate "starving time" in the winter of 1609-1610. Relations with the Indians deteriorated as more colonist began to take food from them by force. That is when the First Anglo Powhattan War started and lasted around 4 years. The war was a series of skirmishes between the colonist and the Powhatans. As their relationship between the Powhatan deteriorated. Disaster loomed the colony. Without supplies the settlers ate everything they could, roaming the woods for nuts and berries all day, they boiled leaves and

even ate excrement of the animals. Archeological evidence shows that they butchered their dogs and cats. They dug up graves to eat the corpses of their former neighbors. One man was executed for killing and eating his wife. He powdered her and had eaten part of her before it was known, for which he was executed, as he well deserved. Few people again, arrived at Jamestown in 1610 they viciously attacked the Powhatans together with the few settlers that have survived. Using terror tactics borrowed from Queen Elizabeth's conquest of Ireland, English soldiers burned villages and towns and executed women and children. After two years, Captain Samuel Argall the leader of the colonist captured Powhatan's daughter Pocahontas in the spring of 1613 and became his prisoner. While in captivity Pocahontas was indoctrinated into the Anglican church and baptized. Later on, Pocahontas fell in love and married John Rolfe, because of that, English colonist formed an alliance with Powhatans. Upon her marriage to John Rolfe, Pocahontas chose to take an English name, "Rebecca," that means "mother of two peoples," and they married in the large church inside James Fort on April 5, 1614. After the marriage of Pocahontas and Rolfe the tensions between the settlers and the Powhatan lessened. Pocahontas and Rolfe eventually had a son named Thomas, Thomas was born in Virginia in 1615. A year later in 1616 the colony was in desperate need of more money from investors. So, they sent Pocahontas, her husband, John Rolfe, and their infant son, to England to promote the colony. Pocahontas was referred to as Rebecca and was celebrated in the highest London society. Pocahontas and Rolfe began their return to Virginia, in March 1617. But Pocahontas took ill at they set sail and died in England at the age of 22 years. After Pocahontas death, her father Powhattan died shortly after in 1618. Upon Powhatans death his brother Opechancanough was made supreme chief. Initially the natives bought their time, but in 1622, Opechancanough launched an all-out assault on English settlers. Opechancanough led a series of coordinated surprise attacks that concentrated on settlements upriver from Jamestown and succeeded in killing nearly a third of the English population. What followed, then, was a ten-year war in which the English repeatedly attacked the Indian food supply. Peace finally arrived in 1632, but by then the balance of power in Virginia had tipped toward the English. The colonial population had grown significantly and Opechancanough's power decreased. The Powhatans tried to stop English encroachment one last time in 1644 but Opechancanough was already old.

The final assault that began in 1644 ended in 1646 with the capture of Opechancanough, English guards shot Opechancanough dead on the back.