Powhatan War-King Philip's War

Powhatan were the dominate native tribe in the Virginia region. It is estimated that they numbered between 16000-24000 in number. They had formed a confederation of tribes throughout the area.

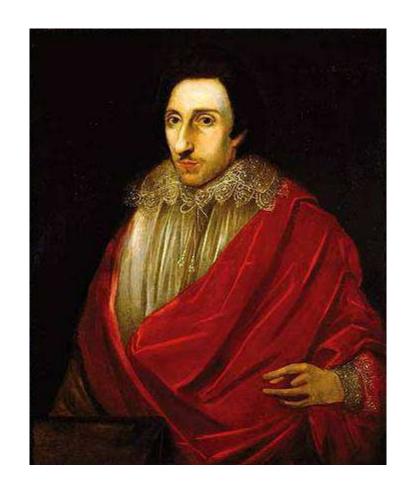


- A series of conflicts would begin in in 1610 resulting in three wars between English settlers in Virginia and the Powhatan Confederation.
- John Smith (a leader) of the colonists envisioned that the Powhatan would one day become laborers for the English

- Chief
 Powhatan(Wahunsonacoc
 k) had a different goal of
 forcing the English to live
 in one of his village and to
 make tools for his tribe.
- Smith would be taken captive and held by the Indians from 1607-1608 until released.
- Smith would then antagonize the Indians by building several forts in their territory

The First Anglo-Powhatan War

- In1610 George Percy would lead a force of 70 men against the Paspahegh(a member of the Powhatan Confederdation)
- 65-70 Indians were killed and this would result in a series of battles lasting until 1613 with the conclusion of the First Anglo-Powhatan War







Second Powhatan War

- While a peace deal was struck with the marriage of Pocahontas and James Rolfe..it would not last.
- With the death of Chief Powhatan and his daughter Pocahontas...the peace treaty would die as well when a much more aggressive leader would assume command...Chief Opchanacanough.
- The Indian Massacre of 1622 would lead to a second war. 347 English settlers would be killed on March 22 during a sneak attack.



Second Powhatan War

- Retaliation raids would dot all of Virginia and the English would find allies in the Accomac and Patawomeck tribes
- Hostilities would consume the area until 1627
- The English were hampered throughout the war by a <u>severe</u> shortage of gunpowder

- The only way to slow down the Powhatan was for the English to set their food stocks and cornfield on fire.
- The war resulted in few victories for the English having to fall back and build a palisade across the Virginia Peninsula that long

Third Anglo-Powhatan War

- Chief Opchanacanough (now 90 years old) rallied the Powhatan Confederation for a final chance at removing the English from Virginia on March 18, 1644. Nearly 500 colonists would be killed during the attack
- The colonists were much better prepared for the war and launched an all out attack after

- Building a series of forts in Powhatan territory broke the back of the Powhatan Confederation
- Chief Opchanacanough would be taken prisoner and then shot in the back by a guard in Jamestown ending the Powhatan wars and destroying the unity of the Confederation.

This first major conflict between English colonists and Native Americans would result in the Treaty of 1646 to establish boundaries between the Virginia Colony and the remaining tribes.

