

### **Mattaponi Sacred History regarding Pocahontas**

Paula Gunn Allen's *Pocahontas: Medicine Woman, Spy, Entrepreneur, Diplomat* (2003) and Linwood Custalow and Angela Daniels' *The True Story of Pocahontas* (2007) are the only book-length Native American versions of her life. And both tell a significantly different story than the one mainstream America is used to.

### **Source of Mattaponi Sacred History:**

Lehigh University Library, Pennsylvania

<http://digital.lib.lehigh.edu/trial/pocahontas/mattaponi.php>

## **Modified**

### **3) No need for a rescue**

Smith's life was never in danger during the four-day ceremony where he was made a lower chief of the tribe. Pocahontas did not save his life. His life did not need saving. Why would the Powhatan want to kill a person they were making a member of the tribe? In Smith's first account, he said the truth: that Smith would be released in four days. Smith's fears were either a figment of his own imagination or an embellishment to dramatize his narrative. (19)

### **4) Pocahontas not there anyway**

The Powhatan priests conducted the ceremony where Smith joined the tribe. Children were not allowed to be at the ceremony. Pocahontas was a child. Pocahontas would not have been in the ceremony to throw herself on top of Smith to save him because the *Priests* would not have allowed it.

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### **10) The story of Japazaw's betrayal of Pocahontas offensive**

There is a popular story that is not true. The story that a Powhatan gave Pocahontas to the English for a copper kettle is deeply offensive us. The story says that the Powhatan people valued material possessions over the love of their relatives. The story says that the Powhatan are wicked. (51)

### **12) Pocahontas submitted to capture to save her people**

Why didn't Pocahontas fight or resist? Instead of resisting, Pocahontas went along with her captors because that was her only choice. We believe that stayed with the English in order to protect her people. If she had behaved badly and resisted the English colonists, they might have taken their anger out on our people. Also, it was the Powhatan custom to respect all life, even the lives of those who wanted to hurt us. (56)

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#### **21) Native Americans have knowledge of tobacco**

John Rolfe's business was in trouble. The company couldn't compete with Spanish tobacco. Rolfe didn't know how to make the tobacco correctly. He needed the Powhatan tribe to teach him how to make tobacco. The priests of the Powhatans knew how to make tobacco correctly. (73)

#### **22) Through tobacco and because of Pocahontas, the Powhatan saved the colony**

The Powhatan saved the colony by sharing how to make tobacco correctly. They did this because of the love the chief had for his daughter Pocahontas. The chief wanted to be friends with the English because he wanted his daughter to be happy and safe. (76)

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#### **23) Pocahontas murdered by the English**

Powhatan priests went to English with Pocahontas. They reported to Chief Powhatan that Pocahontas had been murdered. They reported that she was healthy until she got on the boat to return home. They thought she was poisoned on the boat. The board was still in the river when she died—it had not yet reached the ocean. She suddenly had a big problem and died very quickly. (83-84)

#### **24) Pocahontas aware of English deceit**

Pocahontas learned more about the English and what they wanted. She understood what she needed to do to help her people. We believe that the English colonists did not want her to return. They were afraid she would tell her father about Smith's lies. (84)