

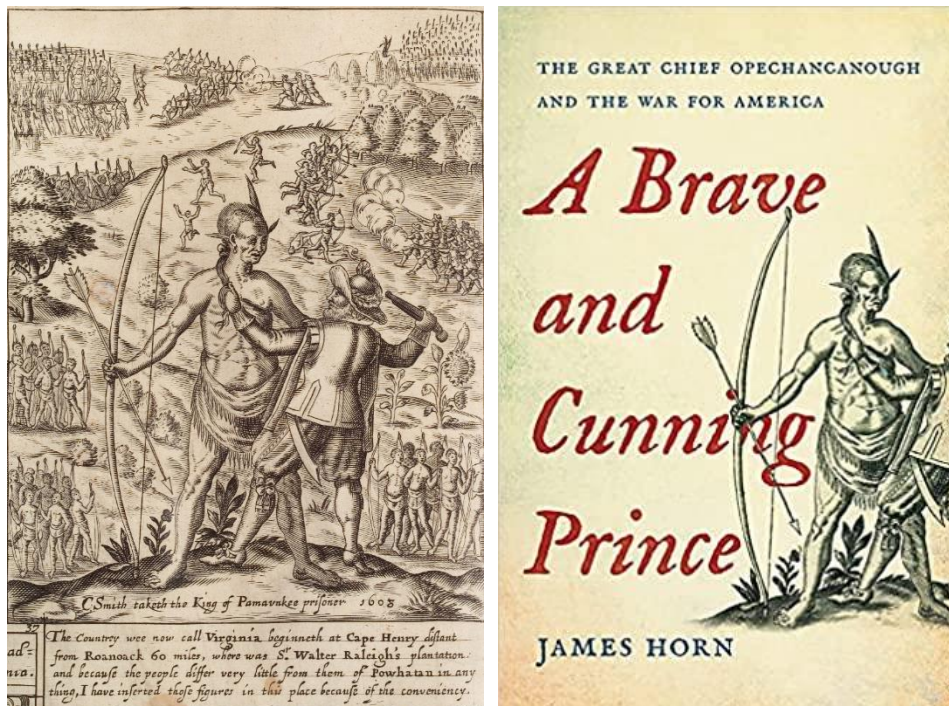
# Jamestown Rediscovery

HISTORIC JAMESTOWNE

Contact: Cindy Deuell, Communications Manager  
Phone: (757) 229-4997 x124  
[hjmedia@preservationvirginia.org](mailto:hjmedia@preservationvirginia.org)

Dr. James Horn tells the extraordinary story of the Powhatan chief who waged a lifelong struggle against European colonizers in his newest book,

***A BRAVE AND CUNNING PRINCE:  
The Great Chief Opechancanough and The War for America.***



The above engraving depicts Opechancanough and Captain John Smith in combat. The image is from John Smith's *The Generall Historie of Virginia, New-England, and the Summer Isles*, and is the only contemporary rendering of the great chief from the period.

*Courtesy of the John D. Rockefeller Jr. Library, Colonial Williamsburg Foundation.*

**JAMESTOWN, Va. (November 18, 2021)** - In the mid-sixteenth century, a young Indian boy was abducted from the Chesapeake Bay region by Spanish explorers. This event would set into motion a life that spanned the Atlantic Ocean and eight decades of struggle against the Spanish and English. In *A BRAVE AND CUNNING PRINCE: The Great Chief Opechancanough and the War for America* (New York, Basic Books; published November 16, 2021) historian James Horn, President and CO of Jamestown Rediscovery chronicles the remarkable story of Opechancanough, paramount chief of the Powhatan Indians.

Horn offers a vivid description of Opechancanough's travels to Spain and throughout the Spanish Atlantic in the 1560s: his introduction to King Philip II, exposure to European society, and his conversion to Catholicism. Later, he was brought to Mexico City in New Spain, and after almost a decade was finally able

to return to his homeland in coastal Virginia. Opechancanough led a group of Jesuits to establish a mission there, but shortly after arriving organized a war party and orchestrated their destruction.

Over the next thirty-five years Opechancanough and his brother, Powhatan, the more widely known of the two, established a formidable chiefdom. Following English efforts to settle in Virginia after 1607, Opechancanough launched a succession of onslaughts in an attempt to expel the settlers from his land. This series of wars, the first Indian wars in British America, spanned the next 40 years. While ultimately unsuccessful, he would come closer than any other warrior chief in this era to succeeding. A brilliant strategist and charismatic leader, he survived to be nearly 100 years old and died, as he lived, fighting the colonists.

*A BRAVE AND CUNNING PRINCE* was made possible by **The Two Friends of History Fund for Indian Initiatives and Educational Programs**, a special fund supporting Jamestown's educational programs and materials to share the narrative of First Peoples. It is the first book to recount the extraordinary life of the Powhatan chief, whose story has no other parallel in American history. Horn illuminates not just the events of his life, but also the experiences, agency, and perspectives of the Powhatan peoples he led. Although unquestionably one of the greatest American military figures in early American history, he has received little public recognition until now.

### **Praise for *A Brave and Cunning Prince***

“James Horn combines cutting-edge scholarship with vivid, accessible prose in this sweeping narrative of Opechancanough's eventful and eye-opening life story.”

—**James Rice**, author of *Tales from a Revolution: Bacon's Rebellion and the Transformation of Early America*

“This book tells the story of one of the most fascinating figures in American history—the older brother of the more famous man we know as Powhatan. Most Americans probably have never heard of Opechancanough, but *A Brave and Cunning Prince* makes it clear that his name ought to ring in our mythology with the tragic names of Chief Joseph of the Nez Perce, Sitting Bull and Crazy Horse of the Sioux, the Apache's Geronimo, and the Comanche's Quanah Parker. Opechancanough's experiences and travels rival those of John Smith, and his leadership was demonstrably more effective. Though eclipsed in the records by both Smith and his own brother, Opechancanough might have been the most important of the three. Opechancanough's story is long overdue, and who better to tell the tale than our generation's foremost authority.”

—**Joseph Kelly**, author of *Marooned: Jamestown, Shipwreck, and a New History of America's Origin*

“*A Brave and Cunning Prince* is brilliant, stunning, original, and un-put-downable. Horn's gripping prose and remarkable detective skills transport the reader to the Chesapeake Bay, Madrid, Mexico City, Havana, and London and into the mind of the talented, indefatigable Powhatan chief, Opechancanough. Upending the traditional Jamestown colonization narrative, Horn centers the Powhatan people, uncovering their priorities and their perceptions of the invaders who tried to colonize their land. Horn has crafted a magnificent, important biography, essential reading for anyone who seeks to understand early America.”

—**Lorri Glover**, Saint Louis University

“James Horn has produced the first full biography of Paquinquino/Opechancanough, making a compelling case that these two important figures in the Indigenous history of Virginia were one and the same. This transatlantic biography will be of great value to anyone interested in the vast history of what in Horn's hands becomes an Algonquian Atlantic.”

—**Michael Leroy Oberg**, SUNY-Geneseo

“Few individuals, European or Native American, had as much impact on early America as the Pamunkey leader Opechancanough. In *A Brave and Cunning Prince*, the renowned historian of early Virginia James Horn offers a masterclass on historical reconstruction and narrative style, deeply informed by an unparalleled mastery of evidence and sensitivity to the nuances of lived experience. Horn takes us across a century and the entire Atlantic basin, enlightening at every unexpected twist and turn. Opechancanough, a monumental figure, comes to prominence again in this true-life page-turner of narrative history.”

—Peter C. Mancall, author of *The Trials of Thomas Morton*

### **ABOUT THE AUTHOR:**

Dr. James Horn was born in Kent, England, and grew up on the outskirts of London. He taught for 20 years in British universities before moving to the US in 1997.



Horn has worked at the College of William and Mary, the University of Virginia, Monticello, and the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, and is now President of the Jamestown Rediscovery Foundation.

An expert on the early history of Virginia and colonial America in general, Horn is author and editor of nine books on colonial America, including *A Land as God Made It* and *1619: Jamestown and the Forging of American Democracy*. He lives in Richmond, Virginia.

*A BRAVE AND CUNNING PRINCE: The Great Chief Opechancanough and the War for America*, is available for purchase in the Jamestown Rediscovery Visitor Center Store, the Archaearium Museum Gift Shop, and online at [www.historicjamestowne.org/shop](http://www.historicjamestowne.org/shop). Hardcover price: \$30 (excludes tax and shipping)

---

*Historic Jamestowne (HJ) preserves the original site of the first permanent English settlement in America and is jointly administered by Jamestown Rediscovery and the National Park Service. Entrance tickets are available at the HJ Visitor Center from 9:00 a.m. until 4:30 p.m., and the grounds remain open until dusk. General admission is \$25.00 per adult (which includes both Historic Jamestowne and Yorktown Battlefield for seven consecutive days). Children 15 & under are free. National Park Passes and Preservation Virginia Memberships are accepted; however a \$10 per person fee may apply. Entrance tickets and passes include admission to the archaeological site, the Memorial Church, the Voorhees Archaearium Archaeological Museum, as well as scheduled daily walking tours and public programs. For opening hours of the Dale House Café and information about special events, please visit [www.historicjamestowne.org](http://www.historicjamestowne.org) or call (757) 856-1250.*