



## **Pocahontas Descendants Initiative**

The ***Pocahontas Descendants Initiative*** is a collaborative effort between the County of Gloucester, Virginia and ***The Pocahontas Project*** (TPP) created to inform and inspire people around the world who believe they are descendants of the woman born Matoaka, died Rebecca, and most famously known as Pocahontas. Globally it is expected that well over 100,000 people can claim Pocahontas as their ancestor, either through her son Thomas Rolfe (father John Rolfe), or her daughter Ka-Okee (father Kocoum).

Managed by TPP, the ***Pocahontas Descendants Initiative*** offers a network providing extensive information about Pocahontas and who might be her descendant (through both bloodlines), resources to facilitate an ancestry search, and ways and means to honor Pocahontas by doing good work in her name in support of the ***Matoaka Sustainability Action Plan***. Access to the ***Pocahontas Descendants Initiative*** is available to anyone who becomes an individual ***Participant*** in the ***Matoaka Covenant*** in 2021.

For all those who know they are descended from Pocahontas, TPP offers new information and insight into their famous ancestor, and will facilitate meaningful ways for descendants of Pocahontas to help create a sustainable future in her honor. For those who believe they might be descended from Pocahontas, TPP offers information resources to assist that investigation. While the Initiative does not authenticate a blood tie to Pocahontas, or assist with any tribal membership, TPP has created a database to catalog people around the world who believe they are descended from Pocahontas. The ultimate objective of the ***Pocahontas Descendants Initiative*** is to unite these descendants in common purpose in support of the ***Matoaka Covenant*** and the ***Matoaka Sustainability Action Plan***.

In March 1613, English Captain Samuel Argall conspired with Japazaws, the leader of the Potowomeck Tribe, to kidnap Pocahontas. As a reward, history has recorded that Japazaws received a good “***copper kettle***” in exchange. This event is the key historical link to both bloodlines of Pocahontas. At the time of her capture she would have already borne her daughter Ka-Okee with Kocoum, and her capture started the chain of events that led to the birth of her son Thomas Rolfe.

In honor of the importance of this transformational event in the life of Pocahontas, the ***Pocahontas Descendants Initiative*** has adopted the **copper kettle** as a symbol of Pocahontas and is developing a logo using the image shown below. This particular copper kettle was chosen because of its simplistic beauty, smart design and strength, just like that of Pocahontas. There

may be rivets hidden from view just like the strength that Pocahontas had hidden inside her. This copper kettle design was common in the early 1600s and was often used aboard ships. Historically accurate to the period and circumstances, The Pocahontas Project believes this copper kettle image perfectly represents the woman most famously known as Pocahontas.



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