As recorded by John Smith in General History, 1624

“All being met at Werowocomoco, the next day was appointed for his coronation. Then the presents were brought him-his basin and ewer, bed and furniture set up, his scarlet cloak and apparel with much ado put on him, being persuaded by Namontack they would not hurt him. But foul trouble there was to make him kneel to receive his crown: He neither knowing the majesty nor meaning of a crown nor bending of the knee endured so many persuasions, examples, and instructions as tired them all. At last by leaning hard on his shoulders he a little stooped, and three having the crown in their hands put it on his head, when by the warning of a pistol the boats were prepared with such a volley of shot that the king start up in a horrible fear till he saw all was well. Then rememb’ring himself to congratulate their kindness, he gave his old shoes and his mantle to Captain Newport.”

VOCABULARY

Werowocomoco- Powhatan’s village along the York River where he lived and ruled at the time of the English arrival

Coronation- the ceremony of crowning a ruler, typically a king or queen

Basin – a bowl typically used for washing

Ewer- a large jug or pitcher

Scarlet- red

Apparel- clothes

Namontack- an Indian familiar with English ways because he was taken to England by Christopher Newport as a young boy, then returned to his people