



## CASEMATE MUSEUM FOUNDATION NEWS



### What's the Big Deal About a Hat?

The Casemate Museum archives contain numerous images of women and men from the turn of the 19<sup>th</sup> century in various types of head coverings. This hat from

our collection was manufactured in London between 1894 and 1926. Because it is fur-covered staff had it chemically analyzed in 2019. The test revealed it contains mercury; not uncommon for objects such as this because hat-makers at this time applied mercury to pelts (like those of rabbits and beavers) to mat the hair and create a more even textile. This hat currently lives in a sealed container in our collections area!



### Who Are the Pamunkey Indians?

The Pamunkey Indian Tribe is one of 11 Virginia Indian tribes recognized by the Commonwealth of Virginia, and the state's first federally recognized tribe, receiving its status in January 2016.

They inhabited the coastal tidewater of Virginia on the north side of the James River near Old Point Comfort and the Chesapeake Bay. The CMF has chosen to honor the tribe on whose lands Fort Monroe was built by selling tribal members crafts in the gift shop.



Pine Needle Basket



Beadwork Bracelet



Blackware Pottery



## **SHORT HISTORY OF THE PAMUNKEY INDIAN TRIBE**

The Pamunkey Indian Tribe was part of the Powhatan paramountcy, made up of Algonquian-speaking tribes. The Powhatan paramount chiefdom was made up of over 30 tribes, estimated to total about 10,000-21,000 people at the time the English arrived in 1607. The Pamunkey tribe made up about one-tenth to one-fifteenth of the total, as they numbered about 1,000 persons in 1607.

When the English arrived, the Pamunkey were one of the most powerful groups of the Powhatan Chiefdom. They inhabited the coastal tidewater of Virginia on the north side of the James River near Old Point Comfort and the Chesapeake Bay.

The Pamunkey tribe is one of only two that still retain reservation lands assigned by the 1646 and 1677 treaties with the English colonial government. The Pamunkey reservation is located on some of its ancestral land on the Pamunkey River adjacent to present-day King William County. The 1646 treaty required annual tribute to Virginia's governor which continues today. As far as anyone knows, they have not missed a payment in 378 years.

Today about 430 tribal members remain, some of who live on the 1,200-acre reservations while others are spread out across the United States.