

The Earl Gregg Swem Library

Original Minutes of the Phi Beta
Kappa Society, from the founding on
December 5, 1776, to the first
suspension on January 6, 1781.



THE OLD BALDWIN TAYLOR

1 p. 29 35 - William Cabell

48 Mrs. Cooke
2 p. 29 149 Mason
see 522 Mason Rowden
p. 19 222 Lyttleton Eyre

A List of the members who have been admitted
into the S.P. and F.B.K. Society

1 John Heath	24 Daniel ^{Connell} Brent
2 Thomas Smith	25 Thomas Clements
3 Rich. Brooker	26 Thomas Bellars
4 James Smith	27 James Baker
5 John Jones	28 John Moore
6 John Stewart	29 James Moore
7 Daniel Hylton	30 James Smith
8 Geo. Hylton	31 William Stuart
9 John Clarke	32 John James Baskin
10 James White	33 James Jones
11 Mr. Short	34 James Jones
12 Mr. Harrison	35 James Jones
13 Mr. Pennington	36 James Jones
14 Henry Hill	37 Geo. Jones
15 John Allen	38 S. Jones
16 John Wilson	39 J. Jones
17 Bartwell Cocher	40 J. Jones
18 Tho. Hall	41 James Jones
19 Samuel Hardy	42 J. Jones
20 Richard Stuart	43 Richard B. Lee
	44 J. Jones
	45 J. Jones
	46 J. Jones
	47 J. Jones
	48 J. Jones

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On Thursday the 5th of December in the
year of our Lord God one thousand seven hundred
and seventy-six, and the first of the Common weal,
a happy spirit and resolution of attaining the impor-
tant ends of Society, entering the minds of John
Heath, Thomas Smith, Richard Booke, Arnold
Smith, and John Jones, and afterwards seconded
by others, prevailed and was accordingly ratified.

And for the better establishment and sanctitude
of our unanimity, a square silver medal was agreed
on and instituted; engraved on the one side with S.P.
the initials of the latter Society, ~~and on~~ and on
the other, agreeable to the former, with the Greek initial
of Φ Ψ χ ω ν μ λ κ ι η θ and an index or
index of philosophical design, extended to the three
stars, a part of the planetary orb, distinguished.

In consequence of this, on Wednesday the 5th of June,
a session was held, in order both to adopt a mode of
institution and to provide for its better security.

And first in Corporation, an oath of fidelity being
considered as the strongest preservative, an institution
of a similar kind was instituted, as follows

I, A. B. do swear on the holy Evangelists of Almighty
God, as otherwise, as calling the Supreme Being, to at-
test this my oath, declaring that, I will with all my possi-
ble efforts, endeavour to prove true, just, and deeply
attached to this our growing fraternity; in keeping,
holding, and preserving all secrets that pertain to my
duty, and for the promotion and advancement of
its internal welfare.

Whereupon the oath of fidelity being thus prescribed
and instituted, was afterwards severally administ-
ered to the respective Gentlemen, viz. John Heath, Tho:
Smith, Richard Bacher, Samuel Smith, John
Jones, Daniel Fitzhugh, John Stuart, Thos. Fitzhugh
and John Stark, as the best of ways or audience to the
congregation.

In consequence of this meeting, freely, and jointly
proceeded to the election of officers, proper and most
suitable for its internal regulations.

Upon the recommendation of three members viz. J. B.
Heath as President, Rich^d. Bacher as Treasurer,
and Tho: Smith as Clerk, these were chosen as
necessary persons for the execution of the

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duties accordingly selected them.

The fraternity having gone through the business of the present session, after a recommendation of certain proper and salutary laws, to be prepared against the next ensuing meeting at March the 1st, jointly adjourned

March 5. Agreeable to the recommendation of some preceding session, we have severally presented the subsequent laws; as proper and most conducive to the advantages of our growing fraternity.

Resolved 1st. That in every design or attempt whether great or small, we ought to invoke the Deity; by some private sacrifice or devotion for a fraternal prosperity.

2^d. That a profanation of the preceding oath of fidelity, subjects the Member to the pain of the universal censures of the fraternity, as well as the rising of our reputations.

3^d. That every member after being properly initiated shall be obliged to learn and himself with the Model wholly corresponding with those of the Fraternity.

4th. That an orderly session of members from the West downwards should be observed.

Not in case of the incapacity or necessary absence

of the President, the choice of any other member shall
be left to the discretion of the society.

12. That the non-attendance of any single member,
unless by some certain obstructing inability, or co-
gent necessity, subjects him to the penalty of five
shillings.

13. That no Gentleman be initiated into this Society but
Collegians; and such only who have arrived to the
age of sixteen years, and from the Grammar Master
upwards; and further, before his disposition be
sufficiently inspected, nor then without the unani-
mous approbation of the Society.

14. That every member during a session, behave with a becom-
ing decency; and declare their sentiments without any
senting confusion.

15. That the least appearance of intoxication or disorder
of any single member, by liquor, at a session, subjects
him to the penalty of ten shillings.

16. That for the encouragement of any new invention of
Arts and Sciences, some premium be allowed from
the public treasury.

shall
*11. That six members shall be ^{chosen} sufficient for the execution
of business.

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or ca-
fine
*12. That each member when desirous of proposing
anything to this fraternity, shall rise from his seat
and particularly address the President.

ety but
to the
*13. That a regular meeting of once a month, unless
a necessity of sooner convening should interpose,
is hereby established and ordained.

Master
be
una-
*14. That the duty of Treasurer in keeping accurate
estimates and accounts of all reimbursements
as well as disbursements is esteemed nothing
but legal and constitutional.

becom-
ly here
*15. That if any dispute attended with animosity and
indignation, should arise amongst us, such a
matter ought to be recognized by a superior of the whole
society.

subje-
tion of
*16. That the President be invested with the prerogatives
of convening the members of this fraternity, when he
shall deem it expedient; that he have likewise the pri-
vilege of giving a decision, when these shall happen a di-
vision of voices, and the power of commanding due atten-
ance to be paid him while discharging the important
duty of his office.

17. That the duty or office of the Clerk, be indispensably requisite, as well in keeping a proper roll or conscription of the fraternity, as fair and legible books in writing.
18. That four members be selected to perform at every self score, two of whom in matters of argumentation and the others in opposite composition.
19. That such of the compositions as are deemed worthy by the society, shall be carefully preserved and delivered by whom and at what time delivered.
20. That the youngest on the roll be appointed Herald for the function of consecrating the members.
21. That the infringement of any of the laws enacted or to be enacted, except such as have the fines annexed to them, subjects the members to the discretionary punishment of the society.
22. That no member shall be expelled without the unanimous concurrence of the society.
23. That every person after being initiated, pay on to the public Treasury the sum of $\text{£}1$.
24. It is also ordained that any Number of Members shall have full Authority & Power to transact Business of Friends; when these Members shall think it absolutely necessary for the Service of the Society.

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March 27th. At a call meeting Mr Isaac Hule being re-
commended as worthy members of this fraternity, were
accordingly initiated. After which we jointly ad-
journ ourselves to the established time.

April 5th. Mr. Basher having been charged at a meet-
ing of this fraternity, of a thorough infuagement of
those of the preceding resolves viz. Qth. 1st & 11th. and
whereupon being willing to receive his defence, have
postponed his examination to the next meeting. Af-
ter ^{which} we jointly adjourn ourselves.

April 15th. At a call meeting Mr. Wm. Short, Mr. John
Monison & Mr. G. Proxton, being recommended
as worthy members of this society, were according-
ly initiated. The business being finished we adjourn
ourselves.

April 19th. Mr. Basher having appeared and made
his defence, was with honour and unanimity re-
stored to the good opinion of this society. The bu-
siness being finished we adjourn ourselves.

May 3rd. ~~At a call meeting~~ ^{for the 1st distribution} of the fraternity, be-
tween themselves or any foreign country or place, it
is resolved that a ~~committee~~ ^{committee} be appointed to ~~take~~
~~the~~ ~~charge~~ ~~of~~ ~~the~~ ~~same~~ ~~and~~ ~~to~~ ~~report~~ ~~to~~ ~~the~~ ~~next~~ ~~meeting~~

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Mr. Heath having resigned the office of President, the fraternity proceeded to the appointment of a successor, and Mr. T. Smith being recommended was accordingly appointed.

In consequence of this appointment they proceeded to the choice of a Clerk and Mr. Wm. Short being recommended was also appointed.

The fraternity having finished the business of the evening adjourned to the second saturday after the expiration of the holydays.

June 16th. At a call meeting Mr. Parker Treas^r having resigned his office delivered to the society the money in his hands. And the society adjourned.

June 21st. In consequence of Mr. Parker's resignation Mr. Isaac Hite being recommended, was appointed to succeed him. Ordered that Mr. Hite and Short be appointed to revise the laws and propose to the next meeting, such new ones as seem to them necessary. The business of the night being finished the society adjourned.

July 2. A call meeting in order that the President might resign on account of his leaving College, he resigned accordingly, and delivered a speech, which is ordered to be carefully kept.

In consequence of the above resignation, the society proceeded to the choice of a successor, and Mr. Heath being recommended was re-elected to this important post. The business being finished an adjournment took place.

July 24th. The society having met agreeable to appointment, opened to the amendments made by their chosen at the last session, to revise the laws and make such propositions, to the next meeting, as seemed to them necessary. The business being finished the society adjourned.

Nov. 29th. Mr. Heath Pres^t being absent agreeable to the fifth resolve, the society proceeded to the choice of a temporary Pres^t: and Mr. Dorn: Smith being recommended as a proper person, was accordingly selected.

Mr. Henry Hill being recommended as a worthy member of this Society, was initiated.

The Business of the evening being finished, the Society adjourned to the 5th of next Month, being the Anniversary to be kept at the Parish

Feb 24. At a call meeting the President being absent, they proceeded to nominate one in his stead; upon which Mr. ~~Port~~ being recommended, was elected. Mr. John Allen, Mr. John Vinton & Mr. Kentwell Cooke being recommended as worthy members of this society, were accordingly initiated.

The business of this evening being finished the society adjourned to Feb. 28. At a call meeting Mr. Hall being recommended as a worthy member of this society, was accordingly initiated. — After which an adjournment took place.

March 24. At a meeting of this Society agreeable to an appointment at the last Session Mr. Fitzhugh & Mr. Sturt ~~delivered~~ their Declamations, which are ordered to be preserved.

An Motion made for an Amendment to the thirteenth Resolves, Ordered that for the future a meeting of once a fortnight be observed. Mr. The ^{Hite} Fitzhugh & Mr. Isaac being great on the Roll, appointed to produce a Declaration at our ensuing Meeting.

The Business being finished an Adjournment took place.

April 4. At a meeting of this society agreeable to an appointment at the last meeting session Mr. S. Stets & Mr. S. Fitzhugh delivered their Declamations, which are ordered to be preserved.

April 4. At a call meeting, the President being absent, the society proceeded to nominate one in his stead; upon which Mr. S. Stets being recommended, was elected. & behiwin ^{about} Stetwell Cooke was chosen Clerk.

Mr. J. Morison & Mr. G. Braxton being new on the roll, are appointed to produce a De

ensuing meetings.

The Business being finished a Report was read
took place.

May 2. At a Meeting of this Society agreeable to former Appointment
Mr. Mason delivered his Declaration which is ordered to be preserved
Mr. Binington being absent.

The Business being finished an Adjournment took place.

July 1. At a Meeting of this Society according to Adjournment ordered
that an Addition of the 25th of the 2^d Article be made to the former Body.

The Business being finished an Adjournment took place.

July 25th. At a Meeting of this Society, it being found convenient to
have temporary Presidents, the Members proceeded to conform in that
affair, and Mr. Smith being deemed a proper Person was accordingly
elected.

Ordered by unanimous Voice of the present Meeting, that an Amend-
ment be made to Article 25th.

The Business of the Evening being finished an Adjournment took place.

July 30th. At a Meeting for the Institution of Mr. Saml. Hardys
recommended as being worthy of an Admission into this Fraternity
he was accordingly initiated.

There being no other Business an Adjournment took Place.

Aug 8th. At a Meeting of this Society, W. Short & S. Allen delivered
their Declarations agreeable to Appointment.

Ordered that an Addition of the 27th Resolve be made to our Code of Laws.

That Mr. Hardy, Mr. Hall, Mr. Fitzhugh & Mr. Short be appointed
Judges agreeable to the above Resolves.

That the Absentees of former Meetings be exempted from Fines, & in future
their Excuses be examined at their next Attendance without Fail.

The Business of the Night being finished an Adjournment took Place.

Aug. 27th. Resolved that the last appointment of Judges of Com-
position be abolished, and that three Members agreeable to the
Resolve 27th be chosen by Ballot. The Society proceeding to

this Appointment upon Examination of the Box, the greatest
Number of Votes appearing in Favour of Mr. Hall, Mr. Short
and Mr. Stuart, they are accordingly confirmed.

Resolved that as the Price of Contention hitherto paid, is inade-
quate to the Purpose, it be augmented to five Dollars.

Resolved that in future, Meetings of this Society be held regularly
once a Week.

An Adjournment.

Aug. 29th. Resolved that three Members be appointed to review
the Laws, and that an Election of them be held on the next full
meetings.

That every Member, who desires to propose any thing to this Soci-
ety, produce it in writing.

That every Member who is absent from Society, be written to in
the most pressing Terms, to attend on the 5th of December, in Or-
der to celebrate that glorious Day which gave Birth to this
happy Union. The Society wishing not to impose their

Business altogether on the Clerk, proceeded to appoint an Assis-
tant, Mr Hardy, to him, for this Purpose.

Resolved that the two Members appointed to argue agreeable to
Resolves 18th, shall be confined to the Subject of the Compositions
delivered at the same Meeting, and that it be moreover strongly
recommended to the other Members, for an additional and improving
Exercise, to give their Sentiments, extempore on the same Subject,
after hearing the others. —

Sept 11. At a meeting of this Society, the President being absent, Mr Short was appointed to that Post. Mr. Hall & Mr. Coche agreeable to the last Appointment, delivered their Declarations, upon the Advantages of an established Church. Three Members, agreeable to a Resolution at the last Meeting, were appointed to revise the Laws, viz. Mr. Stuart, Mr. Hall & Mr. Hardys. Mr. Hall, being one of the Judges, a temporary Successor was appointed to inspect his Performance, viz. Mr. Keady. An Adjourn^t Sept. 11. & 12. At two Meetings no Business appearing from Absence of the appointed Members, Adjournment took Place.

Oct 10. At a Meeting of this Society, resolved that a late Resolution requiring a Convention of Members once a Week, be annulled, & that in future Meetings be held reformly, viz. once a Fort Night.

Nov 5th. Not a sufficient Number of Members appearing hereto. At this Meeting, it was resolved that Messrs Smith & Stuart, being the two oldest Members, declare at the next Meeting, and that Messrs Fitzhughes, argue on the same Subject.

Resolved that Messrs F. Fitzhughes, Morrison and Coche, be appointed to make Provisions for the ensuing Anniversary, that it may be celebrated with a becoming Solemnity.

Mr. Archibald ~~being~~ Mr. Stuart being recommended as a Gentleman worthy an Admission to this Society, was in due Form introduced.

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Whereas the Members of this Society are willing to take under the
Care, Objects worthy of Charity; Resolved that Messrs Hardy &
Cooke be appointed to look out for some Orphan, likely to receive
Advantage from being put to a proper School, & make their Report
of the same to the ensuing Meeting.

Resolved that the Clerk purchase for the Use of this Society ten
Quires of Paper, & that he draw upon the Treasurer for the Price of the
same.

An Adjournment.

Dec: 4th At a Call meeting, it appearing that the State of the Society
was declining through Want of Members, Resolved that a Committee
be appointed to take the same into their Consideration.

Resolved that Messrs Heath, Hardy, A. Stuart, Short, & S. Stuart
be appointed.

Messrs John Browne, Plesson Bowdoin, Lyttleton Egge & Daniel ^{Conrad}
being severally recommended as Gentlemen worthy an Admission
to this Society were accordingly initiated.

The Business of the Evening being over, the Society adjourned in their
agreement ^{to meet} on tomorrow Evening at the Raleigh, to celebrate the
Anniversary of this Fraternity.

Dec: 5th The Society having paid agreeable to Appointment, after the
President had resigned and delivered a valedictory on the Occasion, the Meeting
was in a friendly & mirth. Mr. J. Heath and Thos. ^{Smith} of former
Members attended on this respective Day, for which they have the great

Acknowledgements of the Society:

Dec. 10. At a Meeting of this Society, upon a Motion, viz. that a President be elected, it was agreed on, and after an evening the Ballot was the greatest Number appearing in Favour of Mr. Short, he was in consequence confirmed, for which the Society presented him Thanks.

Resolved that in future, Admission to this Society be not confined to Collegeians alone.

That if any Member appointed to declaim or argue, absent himself on the Night of his intended Performance, he be subject to ^{the} Penalties of five Dollars, unless his Excuse be deemed sufficient by the Society.

Mr. S. Stuart formerly appointed one of the Committees to review the Laws, being about to leave College, Mr. A. Stuart was appointed to succeed him.

An Adjournment.

Jan. 23rd At a Meeting of this Society, the clerkship being vacant by appointment of the late Clerk to the Chair, a new one was ballotted for, and the greatest number of votes appearing in favour of Mr. John Newson, he was accordingly confirmed.

Resolved that in future members be elected and called by ballot and that it be performed by the word

Perro & Com,

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Mr Heath & Mr Fite were appointed to engage in
composition and Messrs Short and Newison in argu-
-mentation at the ensuing meeting
An adjournment

February 6th At a meeting of this Society Mr Heath
being absent the compositions were not delivered.

Mr Clements being proposed as a worthy member, was
ballotted for and received.

Mr Ballardine being also recommended as a worthy
member, was ballotted^d and received.

On a motion made for appointing a successor to Mr
La. Hardy in order to revise the laws, Mr Short was ap-
-pointed to succeed him.

On account of Mr Fites indisposition he is excused &
Mr Short appointed in his stead to produce in opposition
to Mr Heath, Messrs Hall and Newison to argue.

The business of the evening being finished an
adjournment took place.

February 11th At a meeting of this Society Messrs
Heath and Brown upon making known the reason
of their absence the last meeting were excused by
the Society.

According to appointment Messrs Heath and
Short delivered their compositions and Messrs
Hall and Newison replied.

Messrs. Kite and Bowden were appointed judges
 instead of Messrs. Hill and Throckmorton were en-
 gaged in conversation and conversation.

Messrs. Stuart and Brown were appointed to present
 resolutions on the justice of Africa's slavery.
 Messrs. Bowden and Kite to argue.

The Towns of ~~the~~ ~~country~~ ~~of~~ ~~the~~ ~~country~~
 committee were read and resolved upon.

The laws revised by a committee appointed
 for that purpose were read and received uni-
 versal approbation.

Messrs. Baker, Moore, and Roan being re-
 commended to this Society as worthy members
 were ballotted for and received in due form.

A Letter ^{was} received from our worthy
 Brother Mr. John Stuart in which was inclosed
 twelve shillings which was to purchase a
 Testament for the Society, but as the Society
 had been presented with one from Mr. John
 Nixon it was put into the Treasury.

The business of the night being finished an
 adjournment took place.

At a Meeting of this Society on March 13th 1779.

According to appointment Messrs Stuart and Brown delivered their Compositions and Mr Bowdoin and Eyre argued.

Upon examination of the Treasurers accounts there was found to be a B. & in the Treasurers.

Mr Wm Stith being recommended to this Society as a worthy Member was ballotted for and initiated in due form.

Messrs Brent and Clements were appointed to produce compositions enquiring whether Agriculture or Merchandize were most advantageous to a State.

Messrs Baker and Balandine were appointed to argue on the same subject.

The business of the evening ^{being} finished an adjournment took place.

At a Meeting on Saturday March 21th 1779
The Judges having examined the compositions produced at the last Meeting, Mr Brown was deemed ^{by them} worthy of being preserved and accordingly was preserved.

Mr William Stuart being recommended as a worthy

Member of this Society was ballotted for & elected
in due form

Mr Brent and Clement according to appoint-
ment produced their compositions

Mr Ballandine being excused from arguing on
account of his situation and Mr Baker the other
disputant being absent, the Subject was discussed
by the Members

Messrs Ballandine and Moore were appointed
to produce compositions enquiring whether Bru-
tus was justifiable in ^{having} killing his Sons. executed
Messrs Roane and Stith were appointed to argue
on the same subject -

The business of the Evening being finished
an adjournment took place

At a meeting on Saturday the tenth
of April. As our President was absent
a temporary one being ballotted for Mr Hite
was appointed -

According to appointment Messrs Ball-
andine & Moore produced their composi-

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-ons & Messrs. Board. Tith argued
Mr John James Beckly being recommended
as a worthy member of this Society was ballotted
for and it was resolved that there shall be a
meeting on Monday Evening for his initiation
Messrs Baker and Stuart were appointed to bring
compositions enquiring into the cause and ori-
-gin of Society, Messrs Heath and Fitzhugh to
argue on the same subject

The business of the Evening being finished an
adjournment took place

At a meeting April 12th agreed to appoint
-ment, Mr John James Beckly was initiated in
due form

At a Meeting about the 19th Mr Thomas
Lava being recommended as a worthy mem-
-ber of this Society was ballotted for. Initi-
-ated in due form, Mr Boudoin being
about to depart for Europe requested the

company of the Society at the Raleigh where
 he gave them a very elegant Entertainment
 with many Toasts suitable to the occasion.
 The Evening was spent by the Members in
 a Manner which indicated the highest es-
 teem for their departing Friend, mixed
 with sorrow for his intended Absence &
 Joy for his future Prospects in Life.

April 25th 1779 -

According to appointment Mr Stuart produced
 the other gentlemen being absent the subject
 was not discussed.

Mrs^r Heath & Hall making the Society ac-
 quainted with the reason of their absence
 at the last meeting, were excused.

Mrs^r Buckley & Savage were appointed
 to bring in compositions enquiring
 whether a wise state hath any interest
 nearer at Heart, than the Education
 of the Youth. An Adversament

Precursor
 Members
 In Absence
 received a
 Objections
 J. J. Bush
 Mr. H.
 and de
 Ordered to
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 Ordered
 The Ser
 Ballot
 Mr. P.

Pursuant to Resolutions from the President for a Meeting of the B.B.K., eleven Members convened at College, Wednesday Evening, May 6th, 1779.

In Absence of the President, Mr. Hall proposed, pro Tem, and on Ballot received a Majority of Votes;

Whereupon he took the Chair accordingly.

J. S. Buckley in like Manner proposed and appointed Clerk.

Mr. White being called to leave College, proposed to resign the Office of Treasurer, and desired that his Books may be examined.

Ordered to be referred to a Committee - Mr. Bout and Mr. Stuart to view and report immediately.

Committee reported Accounts fairly stated and Cash in Hand £ 8. 19. 8 with a Balance due the Treasury Dept. —

Ordered to transfer Cash in Hand to the next Treasurer, with the A/cts.

The Society proceeds to appoint a Treasurer - Mr. Stuart being proposed, on Ballot received a Majority of Votes.

Mr. President, Mr. Kinson, & Mr. Kinson absent and ordered to be noted.

Adj^d till Meeting in June.

Wednesday June 5th 1793

A meeting of the S. B. F. was convened by summons
from the President.

Present five Members.

Mr. Grant appointed President for the time.

Mr. Buckley Clerk.

Mr. William Sabell is recommended as a member
of this Society, and on a ballot taken he is unanimously
elected and initiated in due form.

Resolved that further time be given to the Committee
appointed to prepare the draught of a Constitution & that
they report to the next meeting.

On motion of Mr. Grant for Mr. He the next attendance
which being deemed sufficient he is excused.

Mr. Hartsell Cook & Mr. Brown appointed to declare Mr.
Grant & Mr. Buckley to argue on Question the Hon or Despotic
is consistent with the principles of a free republic.

On adjournment took place.

(At a Meeting June 17th -

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The Clerk being absent Mr. Beers was appointed for a Substitute.
The Committee formerly appointed, having been presented by an
avoidable Absence from completing the Business relative
to the Charter, prayed for an additional Allowance of time
where a Motion made it was agreed so -

The Treasurer being absent to leave College for some time desired
that his Accounts might be examined by a Committee, & being
wrote him appointed.

Ordered to be referred to a Committee Mr. Board, & Mr. Beers to
take a report immediately.

Committee reported that the Accounts were fairly stated
& Cash in hand \$1. 19. 8 with a balance due the Treas. of \$200
Ordered to transfer the Cash in hand to the new Treasurer with the
Balance due.

Resolved to appoint a Treasurer, Mr. W^m G. Bell being recom-
mended was accordingly appointed.

Resolved that as the Price of Imitation hitherto paid is in-
adequate to the purpose, it be augmented to Ten Dollars -

Messrs. Board & Smart were appointed to bring in Compositions
inquire whether anything is more dangerous to Civil Liberty
in a Free State, than a Standing Army in time of Peace.

Messrs. Page & Savage to argue on the same Subject -
The Business of the Evening being finished An Adjournment
took place

At a meeting held on the 10th of July

Mr. Buckley reported form of Charter read & referred to a Committee of the whole Mr. Brown in the Chair, reported, a debate by paragraphs and agreed to. Resolved that the Charter Party do pass.

Mr. Slat presented additional laws read & agreed to - Mr. Buckley offered excuse for non attendance at last meeting admitted as sufficient -

Mr. Tuttle in like manner excuse for his first non attendance and fined for three not attending.

Adj^d

At a Meeting held on course July 10th 1799.
The Clerk being absent Mr. T. Coates were appointed pro tempore.

Mr. Stuart & Mr. Cloose brought in two compositions as by the last meeting appointed and likewise Mr. Savage & Mr. Page argues on the same - The Persons app^d to examine and return whether the pieces delivered be worthy or no to be kept, two of which ~~have~~ ^{have} now left College, one of which is appointed for the other is app^d constantly to act viz Mr. Brown to act constantly & Mr. Buckley pro tempore.

Resolved that the Clerk provide an Ink stand and return the price of the same to the Treasurer which may be reported to next meeting.

The Persons appointed to form a seal for this Town Society are Mr. Slat, Mr. Brown & Mr. Buckley.

Ordered that Mr. Sturdy have this Charter by the unanimous voice of the meeting.

Mr. Gabriel Viller, Fitzhugh appointed to bring, in com-³³
positions the next meeting Mr. Short & Mr. Cook, to
argue whether Parents have a right to prevent the
marriage of Children after entrenchments contract
The business being finished an Adjournment took
place.

A Meeting called by the President, July 11th 1797.
The form of Charter being again referred to the consideration
of a Committee several alterations were suggested as necessary
by Mr. Short. The amendments proposed being read
in their proper places and approved to.

Mr. William Howard then petitioned the society by that
form of this Charter party should be provided him
The Society considering his excellent attachment to
his interest and the particular attention paid to his
cause unanimously resolved that the same be granted
and that the writing be called for.

Resolved that a copy of the form of Charter party and
also of the laws be drawn up and delivered to Mr. W. Howard
Resolved also that Mr. Savage and Mr. Caple be ap-
pointed to do the same. Adj. till tomorrow night.

July 12th. The P.B.K met agreeable to adjournment;
Resolved in former resolution the form of Charter
party was delivered Mr. Howard together with the Code
of laws; drawn off according to direction
Adj. till day in course.

A Meeting held in evening July 24th 1797.
The Clerk being absent Mr. Short was appointed pro
tempore.
Mr. Fitzhugh and Mr. Cabell brought in their Com-
positions agreeable to adjournment & Mr. Short and
Mr. Cook argued on the same.

Upon a Motion made Debent that the Jury called for Dollars and five in they
are stand, be raised to ten Dollars and twenty.

Motion and Court appointed to bring in Compositions. Motion that the Court
be required to subject. Whether the institution of the Pleas was legal.

An Adjournment.

At a Meeting called by the President July 27th 1779
The Clerk being absent Mr. Brent was appointed pro tempore.
Mr. Elijah Pamale is recommended as a worthy Mem-
ber of this Society and on a Ballot taken he is ^{admitted} unanimously and initiated in due form.

An Adjournment took place -

At a meeting of the F.B.K August 7th 1779
The Clerk being absent Mr. W. Cabell was appointed
to act in his stead.

The Friends appointed to compose, brought in their
compositions and those that were to support them
offered their declamations -

Resolved that Mr. Brent & Mr. H. Cook be appointed
to procure a box of such dimensions as may appear
most proper, to deposit the papers in belonging to
the Society; also they procure a new stand for
use of the same.

Mr. Beckley and Mr. Brent to write, Mr. Savage & Mr.
Pogeburgue. The subject of disputation to be whether
Constitutional or the Monarchical or most subject to
seditions & combinations.

Adjourn'd

At a Meeting of the F.B.K August 15th 1779.

John Beckley offered excuse & non attendance at the last
meeting which was admitted as sufficient.

Mr. H. Cook in like manner

Mr. Brent was called on but offered no reasonable excuse (and
was thereupon fined according to Law.

On the Motion of Mr. Cabell the form of a Charter Party is
granted him by Publique to be sign'd according to Law. The same
is hereby established to be call'd the Δ Δ Δ

At a meeting called October 25th 1779.

The President not present Mr. John Nixon was appointed
pro tempore and likewise Mr. Barbara Coche was appointed
clerk pro tempore.

Mr. Richard Coche was ballotted for there being a dissenting
voice he was not elected.

The business being finished an adjournment took place

At a meeting of the Q B K October the 29th 1779

The President being absent, one was ballotted for
a majority appearing in favour of Mr Brown
he resumed the chair.

The clerk being likewise absent one was ballotted
for & a majority was for Mr Nixon.

In consequence of one of our laws we proceeded
to the choice of two Gentlemen to declaim on the
anniversary. Mr. Short & Mr. Brown were elected
for that purpose.

Mr. Fitzhugh & Mr. Coche to write & Messrs
Tread & Brent to argue.

The business of the Evening being finished an
adjournment took place.

Meeting convened the 13th November 1779
 Ordered that the Gent. appointed to declaim (and
 argue at this meeting) be continued therefore at the
 ensuing meeting.

A Subject is directed on the following Question -
 Whether a general Assentment for the Support of religious
 Establishments is or is not repugnant to the Principles
 of a republican Government.

Mr. Brown discharged from appointment at last meeting to
 declaim on the Anniversary - and a Ballot taken for
 another person in his stead - Mr. Stuart elected -

Ordered that Summons issue to convene the absent
 Members on the Anniversary.

Various causes suggesting to this Society, the necessity of appointing
 a Vice President of this Body to reside in College, and the insufficiency
 of Generals having occasioned delays in Business & other unexpedient
 things - It is hereby declared a future Law of this Society, that a
 Standing Vice President be appointed, who shall have the same powers
 in the absence of the efficient President that is given by Law - and
 it is ordered that this be added to the Standing Laws of the
 Society - So much of any former Law as is repugnant to this is hereby repealed.

Mr. George Brent was recommended as a Gentleman worthy
 the honor of admission as a member of this Society, and on a Ballot
 taken he was unanimously admitted & installed in due form.

The Society proceeded to Ballot for a Vice President (and
 on examining the Ballot Mr. Stuart - is elected)

Ord. Mr. Fitzhugh withdrawing himself be noted -

An Adjournment took place

At a Meeting convened November 27th 1779. 19 (37)
The Clerk being absent Mr. Cabell was appointed to act pro tempore.
The Sent. appointed to usual exercises performed agreeable
to Custom.

Ordered that Saturday next be celebrated as a Anniversary
of this Society.

Resolved that Messrs^r Buckley and Ballouardine be
appointed to make a proper provision for a Evening
of 9th Decem^r. for an entertainment of this Society.

Ordered that 40^s of five Shillings be deducted on
Mr. Fitzhugh for withdrawing himself on a Evening of 9th
19th Nov^r.

Mr. Buckley excused from performing at a next meeting
from a multiplicity of business which presses him

Mess^r Ballouardine and Plowd appointed to declaim and
Mess^r Savage and Page to argue. The theme of Disputation
whether Theological speculations are advantageous to State
or a Country.

The business of a Evening being over an adjournment
took place.

At a Meeting call^d by a Vice - President Dec^r 2^d

1779.
Mr. Cabell agreeable to Law laid his accounts as Treasurer
before a Meeting and desired that they might be examined.

Ordered to be referred to a Committee Mr. Brown & Mr^r
Preston, to review and report immediately.

Committee reported accounts fairly stated and Cash in hand
\$ 23. 9. 0 and balances due to Treas^r £ 6. 14

Mr. Cabell about to leave College for some time begged that
a Treasurer might be appointed to act pro tempore.

Ordered that Mr. Brown be appointed to do a term.

Introduced a Law which is now to be added to a Standing
laws of a Society and may be seen under XXII.

Adjourn^d till Saturday Evening.

35) Saturday the 4th of December 1779.

A Meeting of the **FBK** was convened at six o'clock /
being 9th of the Anniversary to commence that day at Mr.
Quinports in Williamsburg, present Mr. President and 12
other members.

Mr. President left of Chair and Mr. Fitzhugh was called to
of Chair for of Evening.

Mr. President and Mr. Stuart agreeable to appointment of
a former Meeting exhibited their Exclamations on given
subjects.

Petition of Mr. Parmelee for a Charity Party to institute
a Branch of this Society at Cambridge in Massachusetts, signed
^{by several} ~~by several~~ ^{by several} ~~by several~~

Mr. Brown, Mr. Buckley, Mr. Cabell appointed to examine
Exhibitions and report to next Meeting.

Adjourned till tomorrow Evening.

Short & Sweet!

A Meeting convened on of Evening of 5th December

1779.

Mr. President leaving of Chair called Mr. Brown to read

Mr. President suggesting of necessity of making some
view in of form of Charity Party to introduce it properly
and give it an extensive footing in a State of Massa-
chusetts Bay. propose some amendments which
being read in their proper places were acceded to.

Resolved that so much of Mr. Parmelee's petition as relates
to Establishment of a Phi. Society to be conducted in a less
mysterious manner than the **FBK** be not agreed to, as if
adign appears to be irreconcilable with the principles of
this Institution.

Ordered however that Mr. Parmelee be thanked for of proof
which he has given of his zeal by openly communicating
his sentiments to this Society.

Mr. President and Mr. Cook appointed to be the same
Adjournment took place.

Short & Sweet!

At a Meeting called by the President⁷⁰ Decem^r. 9. 179³⁹

Mr. President leaving the Chair, called Mr. Stewart to the same. The Clerk being absent, Mr. Brent was appointed Clerk pro tempore.

Whereas this Society is desirous that the Phi Beta Kappa should be understood to consist of the United States

Resolved that a second Charter be granted to our Dear Brother Mr. Elisha Parmeli for establishing a Ruling of the same in the College of New Haven in Connecticut, to be of the same Rank, to have the same Power, and to enjoy the same Privileges with that which he is empowered to give in the University of Cambridge. *Adiuncta* The adjournment took place

Wm. D. [Signature]

At a Meeting in course Saturday the 11th Decem^r 179³⁹

Resolved to usage a Comm^o was read. Mr. Brent as Chairman Messrs. Wallbridge and Moore delivered Declamations on the subject given at late meeting. The same was argued and attended discussion. The subject was finished.

- Mr. Cooke, excused for first non attendance.
- Same, for second non attendance & not writing excused.
- Same, for third non attendance at this meeting, fined.
- Mr. Beckley fined for Absence in attendance.
- Mr. Fitzhugh non attendance noted.

Wm. D. [Signature]

The inclemency of the Winter Season and such of the
 absent and other Members of the C. B. S. having
 interrupted the regular meetings of this Society, a few of
 the Members remaining in W. B. being convened on Saturday the
 1st March 1841 a subject for Declaration on the same
 day evening being agreed on, a meeting was
 called and held on Saturday the 11th March, being
 the day of meeting in course. Present for this at this meeting

J. M. S. - Mr. President.

And six other Members.

Mr. Norton and Mr. Short delivered declamations on the
 Question "Is a Public or Private ~~and~~ Education more advantageous
 Mr. Locke and Mr. Smart argued on the said Question (and
 after discussion the same being fully investigated, was closed.

Ordered that a Charter Party be granted to J. B. B. B. B.
 by the unanimous vote of this meeting to be denominated the
 "H. and established at Richmond.

~~Resolved~~ Resolved that

Mr. Brown and Mr. Short appointed to declaim
 Mr. Norton and Mr. Locke - to argue at next
 meeting. Question. Had William the Roman a right to invade England.
 An Adjournment took place.

What?

At a meeting of this Society, Thursday the thirtieth⁽⁴⁵⁾
of April 1770 - present the president and
seven Members - Mr Hartwell Coche being absent
the literary business was postponed -
Messrs Short and Joseph Cabell being proposed as
worthy members of this Society were balloted for
and received

Ordered that a copy of the Charter be drawn up
immediately and sent to Mr Beckley together with
a letter of thanks

The business of the Evening being finished
an adjournment took place

At a meeting of this Society April 29th 1770
Present all members except Mr Coche, Mr
Malandine

Mr Brown and Mr Short according to a former
order delivered their dissertations on the Question
had Mr the Norman a right to the crown of
Great Britain - Mr Coche being absent Mr Nixon
delivered his sentiments

According to order of last meeting a charter
Party together with a letter of Thanks was

minutes of sent to Mr Brickley
 That the business of this Society may be carried
 more regularly than of late it is resolved, that in
 future every Member who is fined by this Society
 for nonattendance & neglects offering the money
 to the Treasurer immediately, shall be obliged to
 pay an interest of 25 Percent monthly upon every
 such fine so long as he is in arrears.

Mr John Stuart and Mr Geo. Fabyan appointed to reclaim Mr Arch. Stuart & Mr Tho.
 Belandiere to argue the question, whether the
 execution of Charles the first was justifiable?

An adjournment

W^hend^{ed} P^{er} —

At a meeting of this Society the 18 of May 1730
 Cap^t. John Marshall being recommended as a Gentle-
 man who would make a worthy Member of this Society
 was ballotted for & received

Mess^{rs} Tho^s Lee & John Cabell being also recom-
 mended as worthy a seat in this Society were balloted
 for & received

Mr George Lee Turberville requesting a Charter to
 establish a branch of this Society in Westminster
 it was unanimously agreed upon that his request
 be granted & that the branch be denominated the

The business of y^e evening being finished an ad-
 adjournment to the place.

At a meeting in course Saturday May 25th 1780

Mr President leaving y^e Chair called Mr Brown to y^e same. — Mr John Stuart according to appointment delivered his sentiments, or y^e execution of Charles y^e 1st Mr Fitzhugh not being able to procure an author who has treated of this Question Subject said nothing on y^e occasion Mr Balentine being absent, Mr Archibald Stuart & Gentlemen not interested on y^e occasion argued y^e same

Mr Wm Cabell & Mr Peyton Short appointed to declare y^e Question, whether any form of Government is more favourable to public virtue, than a Commonwealth

Mr Joseph Cabell & Mr Marshall to argue y^e same

An adjournment

At a meeting in course Saturday Juny 3rd 1780

Mr President leaving y^e Chair called Mr Brown Fitzhugh to y^e same Mr Wm Cabell according to order delivered his declaration on y^e Question give want Mr Peyton Short being unprepared was silent on y^e occasion Mr Marshall & Gentlemen not immediately interested argued ^{and} y^e same

Mr Pierce being recommended as a worthy person for this Society was balloted for President accordingly the Treasurer agreeable to one of y^e Fundamental Rules of this Society read his accounts before y^e same for y^e year

Ordered that Messrs John & Archibald's accounts of
Treasurer's accounts be of next meeting when they shall
make a report of of same

Mr Balmain's excuse for his nonattendance at of last
meeting being deemed sufficient he was accordingly
excused

Mr Peyton Shob being called on to give his reasons for not
delivering a declamation according to appointment given
such as were thought insufficient

Ordered that Mr Washington and Mr Peyton ^{Shob} having
declamations at of ensuing meeting, of question whether
of rape of of Sabine women was just - Mr Lee & Mr
London Cabell to argue on of same

At a meeting on course Saturday June 27th 1780

The President being absent of Vice President filled of
Chair -

Mr Richard Black Lee being recommended as
a Gentleman worthy a seat in this Society was bot
titled for & received.

The Vice President leaving of chair call Mr Wm Cabell to
of same -

Mr P. Shob being absent Mr Washington alone deliver
a declamation on of subject given out - Mr Lee & Mr Lon
Cabell and Gentlemen not immediately interested desisted
of same - Mr Richard Lee & Mr John Stuart appointed
to bring in declamations - Mr Wm Shob & Mr Thos

Fitzhugh to argue

45

At a meeting in course July 27th 1780

Mr Wm Madison & Mr John Swan being recommended as Gentlemen worthy of a seat in this Society, were admitted for and received.

The Vice President leaving of Chair called Mr Brown to order -

Mr Richd Lee & Mr John Stuart according to appointment brought in declamations, of Question whether Religion was necessary in Government - Mr Short & Fitzhugh being absent it was not argued.

Mr Kinison & Mr ^{James Roane} Stuart appointed to declaim
Mr Brown & Mr Brent to argue
an adjournment.

At a meeting of of Society July 29th 1780

Mr President leaving of Chair called Mr Wm Cabell to order -

According to appointment Messrs Kinison & Roane delivered their declamations of Question whether in a civil War any person is justifiable in remaining neutral - Mr Brown & Mr Brent being unprepared were silent ordered that Mr John Stuart who was appointed secretary of committee to examine of Treasurer's account to bring now a report that Mr Richd Lee do supply the place & that of committee shall at of meeting next - make their report
Mr Richd Stuart & Mr John Brown to declaim Mr

60 Daniel Carol Brent & Mr. John Ballantine
to argue

At a meeting in course August 27th 1840
Conformable to custom of Committee was formed
Mr. Peane as Chairman — Mr. Brown
and Mr. Archibald Stuart agreeable to order resolved
their Resolutions of Question whether Duelling
ought to have toleration in this or any other free
State. Mr. Brent & Mr. Ballantine argued of same
The Committee to whom the Treasurers accounts were
referred have examined & viewed & report that there
are 27.407 in Treasury and but 7.0 in arrears
Mr. Wm Cabell & Mr. Jas. Cabell appeared to bring
in resolutions at ensuing meeting. Mr. Bushnell's Motion
was also there to argue

An Amendment

At a meeting in course August 29th 1840
Both of President & Vice President being indisposed
agreeable to usage a committee was formed Mr.
Peane Chairman — Mr. Wm Cabell according
to appointment delivered his declamation of Question
whether all our Affections & Principles are not in
some measure reducible from self love, and
of affirmative. Mr. Joseph Cabell being absent
was offered in of ~~affirmative~~ ^{affirmative} excepting Mr. W.
and reasoned ^{near} ~~affirmative~~ ^{affirmative} ~~affirmative~~
being also absent

ordered that Mr Landon Cabell & Mr Wm Pierce
bring in Declamations at y^e ensuing meeting
Mr Richard B. Lee to Mr Wm Madison to argue
In Adjournment

At a meeting in course September 4th 1780
Agreable to usen the committee was formed Mr Swan
as Chairman

Mr Pierce & Mr R. B. du being absent, y^e Question whether
Polygamy is a dictate of Nature or not was handled by
Mr Landon Cabell & Mr Madison

Resolved that Mr Wm Short & Mr Richard Lee do bring
in declamations at y^e celebration of y^e Anniversary

Mr Wm Cabell being absent to report college, Mr James
Carroll Brent is appointed to succeed him in his office
as Treasurer

Resolved that the thanks of y^e Society be given Mr
Cabell for y^e faithful discharge of his Office
that Mr Swan & Mr Washington wait on him for
that purpose as well as to receive y^e Bashes

Mr Wm Short & Mr Thos^o Fitzhugh to bring in decla-
mations at y^e ensuing meeting Mr Short & Mr
Madison to argue

In Adjournment

A meeting in Course October 22nd 1790

The vice President being absent Mr Daniel Brent was appointed
in his stead pro tempore

The vice president leaving of Chair called Mr Swan to of some
agreeable Appointment Mr Joseph Cabell and Mr Bushrod
Washington delivered their declamation of Question whether a
Man in extreme want is justifiable in stealing from his
Neighbour to relieve his present necessities Mr Tho Lee being
having particularly engaged obtained leave of absence Mr Landan Cabell being
absent without leave of subject was not argued

Mr Jm Madison & Mr Swan to bring in declamations at of
succeeding meeting Mr Tho Cooke & Mr Washington to argue

An adjournment was agreed in

At a meeting call'd on the 30th of Nov. The President
and Vice President being absent Mr Brent was
pro tempore for the Chair The Clerk
being absent Mr Lee of pro tempore

Mr Stevens & Mr Mason being recommended
as a ^{gentlemanly} association of a seal in this society
was balloted for and received

Mr Fitzhugh and Mr Landan Cabell were ap-
pointed to speak for a supper at the Raleigh
on the night of the anniversary

Adjourned to the Raleigh on Tuesday 7th Dec

At a meeting at the College on
the 5th December to celebrate the anniversary
of the 1st of July were present W^o Brewster
Vice President W^o Brane W^o Hall & W^o
P^o Lee & W^o Cook.

W^o Brewster took the chair
the clock being about 11. W^o Hall was
present. The W^o B. left the chair & called
W^o Brane to come. W^o B. then according
to appointment then proceeded to declaim
the progress of the arts & sciences. President W^o Hall
who ~~was~~ was likewise to declaim on the progress
being about a quarter of the night he being
at 11. W^o Brewster returned the chair to W^o Hall
the meeting being ^{at 12} over. The meeting
was held at 12. W^o B. then left the chair & went
to his room.

1781 - On Saturday the 6th of January 1781
was called for the Papers of printing the Minutes of the Society
and the progress of the same to the society the paper which
contains the Minutes.

The Minutes were attended by William L.
Brent, C. Brent, J. Brent, D. Brent, J. Brent & W. Brent.

They thinking it most desirable that the Papers should be
examined & determined to believe they would be the Honour
the College should be known with the same to the Society
of the Society. The Minutes were then read & they
were & will be that the Papers will
be printed & published.