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WILLIAM AND MARY COLLEGE Notes collected by E. G. Swem

C12/912/4 A.-D. 1772

Attorney-General at relation of the William and Mary College, Virginia v. London. Corporation of Deps.

LIBRARY COLLEGE OF WILLIAM AND MARY

WILLIAMSBURG, VIRGINIA

E.G. SWEM, LIBRARIAN

October 26, 1926.

Dear Dr. Chandler:

Dr. Young has given me your message to prepare a memorandum of the relation of Robert Boyle to the College of William and Mary.

Robert Boyle was born Jan. 25, 1627, in Ireland. He died Dec. 30, 1691, in London. He was buried Jan. 7, 1692, in St. Martins-in-the-Fields.

In his will he states that the "residue of his personal estate, after debts and legacies paid, should be disposed of by his executors for such charitable and pious uses, as they should think fit; but recommends unto them the laying out the greatest part thereof for advancement of the Christian religion". Richard, Earl of Burlington, Sir Henry Ashurst, and John Marr were to be executors.

Apparently the amount left after paying debts and other legacies was fifty-four hundred (5400) pounds, since the executors purchased for that amount the manor of Brafferton in Yorkshire of Sir Samuel Garrard. Out of the rents of the Brafferton manor, the executors granted ninety (90) pounds per annum to the Company for Propagating the Gospel in New England, and the parts adjacent. The company should apply forty-five (45) pounds per annum to the salary of two ministers to instruct the Indians in the Christian religion, the remaining forty-five (45) pounds was to be paid to the president and fellows of Harvard College to be used for the salary of two other ministers to teach the Christian religion to the Indians in or near the College.

The executors decreed that the said manor of Brafferton should be conveyed to the mayor, commonalty, and citizens of London, and that after ninety (90) pounds from the rents had been paid as above, the remainder should be laid out for the advancement of the Christian religion in Virginia, as the Earl of Burlington and the Bishop of London should direct.

The courts approved this method of the disposition of the personal property of Boyle.

Following the decree of the court the Earl of Burlington and the Bishop of London agreed on the following rules to carry out this charity in Virginia, Dec. 21, 1697:

1. All yearly rents of Brafferton, after paying ninety (90) pounds a year to the Company for Propagating the Gospel in New England, should be paid to Micajah Perry, London, merchant, agent in London for William and Mary College.

- 2. All sums, subject to aforesaid deductions to be sent to the president of the College.
- 3. The president and masters should provide lodgings and rooms for such Indian children as are brought to College, out of such funds.
- 4. To keep as many Indian children at expense of fourteen (14) pounds per annum as fund will permit.
- 5. The education of such children to be left to the president and masters subject to inspection of rector and governors.
- 6. Said president and masters to report particularly as to expenditure of fund.
 - 7. Other rules to be added by Earl of Burlington and Bishop of London.
- 8. Said Charity to be called "The Charity of the Hon. Robert Boyle, Esq. of London, deceased".

The Lord High Chancellor approved the above rules on June 9, 1698, with the added requirement that a copy of the report sent to Burlington and Bishop of London, should also be filed in the Court of Chancery; other rules to be applied by Burlington and the Bishop to be first approved by the Court of Chancery. He also decreed that Perry was to appoint a receiver under him of the rents.

After a careful reading of the will, rules, and decrees, I do not believe that we can say that the College gave ninety (90) pounds, or forty-five (45) pounds, to Harvard. The Manor of Brafferton did not belong to the College, but to the city of London in trust for a certain purpose, part of which purpose was the education of some Indian children at William and Mary. The only property right the College had was the rent that was left after ninety (90) pounds had been paid, which was thus a secondary right.

The fact remains, however, that the Boyle bequest aided the College and erected a building still in use.

Aside from the fact of the use of Boyle's property for the College, the high acquirements and unselfish character of Boyle entitle him to recognition by an anniversary celebration of his birth, such as the 300th.

Undoubtedly in the 17th century in England he was regarded as the leading scientific man. He was of an unusually deep charitable and religious nature, a fact which contributed to his influence as a scientist among all classes.

Influenced by Bacon's effort toward advancement of learning by experiments, he consistently and continuously devoted his life to experiments in physics and chemistry, without thought of personal gain or advancement. Four of his brothers, all who grew to adult life, were peers. Charles II offered a peerage to him at different times, which he always refused. He with a few others organized a scientific club in 1645, fifteen years before the Royal Society in 1660, which club finally became the Royal Society. This society was much interested in Virginia. John Banister, William Byrd, and the Rev. John Clayton were some of the correspondents here. One of the leading members of the original club was Christopher Wren, and Wren and Boyle were lifelong friends.

Very sincerely,

E.G. Swem, Librarian.

egs/d

e. g. swem. Librarian

LIBRARY COLLEGE OF WILLIAM AND MARY FOUNDED IN 1693 WILLIAMSBURG, VIRGINIA

November 7, 1929

Dear Dr. Chandler:

I am sending you herewith a copy of the "Rules and Methods Agreed on for the Settlement of the Brafferton Charity in Virginia". Dr. Jameson apparently after a long search, has been able to find the transcript in the Library of Congress. It seems not to have been in the group of papers to which it belonged. I am keeping a copy here, and am returning the transcript today. Sincerely yours,

Homen

E. G. SWEM

s/m

LIBRARIAN

LIBRARY COLLEGE OF WILLIAM AND MARY FOUNDED IN 1693

WILLIAMSBURG, VIRGINIA

December 14, 1929

Dear Dr. Chandler:

I am sending you a copy of the document which we have just received from Stevens & Brown, "The memorial of what Coll. Spotswood Govr. of Virginia sent to the Bishop of London in Relation to the Education of Indian Children in William & Mary College".

Sincerely yours,

E. G. SWEM

s/m

E. G. SWEM, LIBRARIAN

LIBRARY COLLEGE OF WILLIAM AND MARY FOUNDED IN 1693 WILLIAMSBURG, VIRGINIA

July 8, 1930.

Dear Doctor Chandler:

I am returning herewith the material about Brafferton, in the original container.

None of this has been copied except the "Rules and Methods Agreed on for the Settlement of the Brafferton Charity in Virginia," which I sent you on November 7th.

Sincerely yours,

EGS/h

E. G. Swem, Librarian.

ROBERT M. HUGHES
418 COLONIAL AVENUE
NORFOLK, VIRGINIA

March 29, 1929.

Mr. E. G. Swem, Librarian, Williamsburg, Va.

Dear Mr. Swem:

Fell you the legal history of the Boyle fund. I did not know it then, but have recently located it. I found it in vol. 1 p.243 of Vesey jr's Chancery Reports, and I inclose you a copy. Possibly you might like to publish it in the Quarterly.

I also inclose a letter to Dr. Chandler containing another copy, as it may help him in England. I do not know his foreign address, and I would be glad if you would add the proper direction. You are at liberty to read the letter.

Yours Sincerely

Rolf. M. Aughes.

LIBRARY COLLEGE OF WILLIAM AND MARY

FOUNDED IN 1693 WILLIAMSBURG, VIRGINIA

January 28, 1930.

Rev. T. C. Dale. c/o The Genealogist's Magazine, 5 Bloomsbury Square. London, W. C. 1, England.

Dear Mr. Dale:

I have been very much interested in your contribution entitled-"A Merchant in Virginia in 1634 A. D.", which appeared in the December 1928 Genealogist's Magazine.

I am writing to ask if you remember about how many pages there are in the document to which you refer. I am at present, editor of the "William and Mary Historical Quarterly", a copy of which I am sending you today. It is our purpose to print documentary material relating to Virginia. I thought it might be desirable to print in full the depositions and papers in the case of Carter versus Hoskins to which you refer. Before asking our agents in London to have photostatic copies made, I should be pleased to know about how many pages it will be necessary to photograph. If you can give me the approximate number, I shall very much appreciate at.

Very sincerely yours.

E. G. Swem, Librarian.

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s/h

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Soc. of Gen. 5 Bloomsbury Square, W. C. 1

14 EEB. 1930.

Dear Mr. Swem

I went today to the Record Office & looked up the references. No. 47 has 2 quarto pages, & one of interrogatories:

no. 28 has 12 pp.depositions, & one interrog.

On another quest I came on inclosed reference . 1772 is & I expect too late to intersest you, but you can never tell what may be in a deposition. If you want an abstract made, I can recommend J. Harvey Bloom, 36 RYDEVALE Rd., S.W. 17., who is accurate in his work & moderate in his charges.

I have not yet received the copy of your Magazine which you were so kind as to say you would send me, but it may be wait ing for me at the Society's Rooms. At any rate I will take this opportunity of thanking you for it.

Yours sincerely

T. C. Jah