MINUTES

of the

COUNCIL

and

GENERAL COURT

of

COLONIAL VIRGINIA

1622-1632, 1670-1676

WITH NOTES AND EXCERPTS FROM ORIGINAL COUNCIL AND GENERAL COURT RECORDS,

INTO 1683, NOW LOST

Edited by H. R. McILWAINE



RICHMOND, Virginia

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Preface

This volume contains fuch remnants of the minutes of the proceedings of the Council and General Court of colonial Virginia as are extant and have been found. They are for the period February 4, 1622 (old ftyle), through February 9, 1632 (old ftyle)—there being many gaps, however—and for the period beginning April 15, 1670, and ending March 22, 1676 (old ftyle). In addition, as furnishing the only substitutes possible where the minutes themselves and other records of the court are no longer in existence, there are here published notes made from these records when they were still available. A few pages have, also, been incorporated from Hening's "Statutes at Large of Virginia" that give certain proceedings more clearly than do the original records themselves in their present mutilated condition. Hening had access, when he was making his compilation, to all the records of the court at that time in existence.

The great mass of the records of the General Court of Virginia, both for the colonial period and a later period, was destroyed in the burning of the State court building in the southeastern corner of the capitol square on the night of April 2/3, 1865, when Richmond was evacuated by the troops of the Southern Confederacy. The contents of the present volume, a mere fragment of the original records of the court, and incomplete notes made from a portion of them, enable the student of Virginia history to estimate the loss suffered in that disaster by the people of the State. The material loss incurred at the evacuation of Richmond have, happily, long since been more than made good, but there can be no compensation for the loss of these records. It only remains for the State through its proper agencies and for the historical workers of the State to gather up with pious care the fragments that are left from this reservoir and other reservoirs of Virginia's history, place them in sireproof repositories, and, further, by publication insure them—that is, their content and spirit—not only from loss by fire but from all forms of deterioration, gaining for them, at the same time, in this way wide dissemination and availability.

The majority of the notes referred to above as having been made from the originals when these were still in existence are the work of Mr. Conway Robinson, who, however, added to his own ftore notes made by an earlier worker. Mr. Robinson was born in Richmond, Virginia, September 15, 1805, and died in Philadelphia, January 30, 1884. Throughout life he was an indefatigable worker and showed marked ability both as a legal and an historical student and writer. In 1842-44 he was reporter of the Supreme Court of Appeals of Virginia and of the General Court. The lift of his published works is long, including, on the legal fide, Volumes 40 and 41 of "Reports of Cases decided in the Supreme Court of Virginia and the General Court," the "Codeof Virginia, 1849" (prepared in collaboration with John M. Patton), and-probably his greatest work-"The Practice in Courts of Justice in England and the United States" (seven volumes); and, on the historical fide, "An Account of Discoveries in the West until 1519, and of Voyages to and along the Atlantic Coast of North America from 1520 to 1573." Mr Robinson was one of the founders of the Virginia Historical Society, on December 29, 1831, and throughout life was devoted to its interests, ferving almost always as one of its officers. It was very fitting, then, that after his death his unpublished manuscripts and notes of an hiftorical nature should have been given by his widow to the society. Among these were two volumes of abstracts from the court book of the Virginia Company of London, 1619-1624, which Mr. Robinfon had prepared for the prefs, and which were published by the fociety as Volumes 7 and 8 of its Collections in 1888 and 1889, edited, with an introduction and notes, by R. A. Brock, corresponding secretary and librarian of the society. In addition, there were prefented transcripts, abstracts, and notes made by Mr. Robinson from various fources, with occasional fentences or paragraphs of comment by him and

his left hand, vppon the left eare felloniously did strike, and the said Thomas Godby then and there likewise felloniously wth his soote did kicke of wth stroke and kicking the said Thomas Godby the ninth daie of february in the yeare aforesaid in the morning dyed, and soe the said William Bently the said Thomas Godby the said nynth daie of february in the yeare aforesaid felloniously did kill against the peace of our said soveraigne Lord the King his Crowne and Dignity.

Vppon weh indictmt the faid William Bently pleaded not Guilty, and for his tryall

put himselfe vppon the Country vizi

Richard Kingfmill Edward Cage Thomas Bagwell

John Southerne Thomas Crumpe Marmaduke Rayner [?]

Thomas Harwood John Harris Elmer Phillipps

John Bridges John Johnson francis flowler

W^{ch} Jury being Impaneled and fworne to enquire of the faid felony vppon delyvering vpp their verdict founde the faid *Bently* guilty of manflaughter, And hee being asked what hee had to fay for himfelfe that hee ought not to dye demaunded his Clergie wherevppon hee was d^d to the Ordinary &c.

At this Co^{rt} was a leafe graunted vnto *Thomas Delmaio*^r of a Certaine fmall flipp of land lying at *Goofe Hill* conteyning three acres abutting westerly vppon the land of Dame *Elizabeth Dale* Eafterly vppon *Goofe Hill* Marshe Southerly towards the main River and Northerly on the Iland.

7th of March 1628

A CORT at James Citty the 7th of March 1628

plent

John: Pott Efqr Gouernor &c. Capt: Smyth: Capt: Mathewes. Mr. Claybourne

Mr ffarrar.

fit is thought fitt that M^r ffarrar at the next meeting of the Co^{rt} do bring downe M^r Pooly and Edward Auborne to answer to such thinges as shall bee objected ag^t them.

It is likewife thought fitt that Capt: Mathewes doe bring vpp John Moone of Warrofquoiak to answere to Certaine Contemning wordes weh hee hath spoken agt the Comaunder of that Plantacon.

It is ordered that a letter bee written to Mr Thomas Raftell to Certifie the Carriage and eftate of his affaires in this Colony.

It was ordered that these Comissions following bee renewed as followeth viz'

the Colledge and
Neck-of-land
Sherley hundred
maine
Sherley hundred
Iland
Weftouer
Perfeys hundred
Paces Paines and
Smythes Mount
the other fide of
ye water

Hog Iland

Leif Ofborne to bee Comaunder of the Colledge and the Neck-of-land hee being in the latter to appoint a deputy.

M' Thomas Palmer to be Comaunder of Shirley hundred main

M¹ Henry Throgmorton Comaunder of Sherley Hundred Iland and his owne plantacon

Cap: Thomas Pawlett Comaunder of Westover
Mr Henry Carelesse Comaunder of Perseys hundred

Mr William Perry Comaunder of Paces paines and Smythes Mount

Capt: John West Comaunder of the other side of the water.

Mr John Chew Comaunder of Hog Iland

Mr John Jackson Comaunder of the Neck-of-land in ye Corporacon of James Citty.
Bridges ffreeman Comaunder of the Magine [magazine]

Mr Viie Comaunder of all the plantacons betweene Martins hundred and Archers hope Creeke

Capt: Baffe Comaunder of Warrofquoiacke

ffor Elizabeth Citty it is thought fitt that Cap: Thomas Purfury shall bee principall Comaunder there and his Chardg to bee more Pticulerly for the execucon of all matters belonging to Shipping and such warrants as shall iffue from the Governor and Councell

Leift Willoughby to be Comaunder vnder him at Maries Mount and so downewards to Cap: Tuckers plantacon.

Likewise Leift George Thompson from Leiftenante Lupoes[?] Creeke to Chamberlaines Creeke

Likewise Leift Waters from Southampton River to ffox hil

At this Co^{rt} Mathew Edloe husband to Alice late the wife and Admstratrix of Luke Boys deceased delyvered in vppon his oath the account of the paymts of the said Luke Boys his debts and estate.

Mr Richard Stevens Complaynes that the ferieant Coleman at Elizabeth Citty havinge arrefted La Guarde for 1400¹¹ of tobaccoe who was to appeare at this Cort, but hath made default; Wherevppon it is ordered that Capt: Purfury shall take order that eyther by the said Coleman or the suerties plent satisfaccon bee made vnto Mr Stevens eyther out of their estate or to Comitte him the said Coleman to prison.

ffor the ease of the people and according to the order established in the generall assembly It is ordered that a Comission bee drawen for a monethly Cort to bee holden in the vpper Ptes, The Comissioners to be vizt Mr ffarrar: Capt: Epes: Capt: Davis[?] [or Daws] Capt Mr Thomas Palmer Henry Throgmorton . . . Mr ffarrar to bee alwaies

W^{ch} Co^{rt} is to decide Controversies of meum et tuum vnder one hundred weight of tobaccoe and to take into their Chardge the conservacion of the peace soe far as is belonging to the Quarter Sessions of the justices in England life only excepted wth pivisoe of appeale to the Gouerno^r and Councell.

A like comiffion for a monethly Cort at Elizabeth Citty the Comiffioners whereof to be vizt

Capt Purfury: Leift: Waters: Leift: Willoughby: Leift: Thompson: Mr Thorowgood: Mr Lyonell Roulston[?] Mr William Kempe: Mr John Downeman . . . Cap: Pursury or Leift: Waters to be allwaies [one]

It is ordered that Capt Mathewes shall have leave to sende his bargue the ffrancis a trading into the Bay of Chesapeack

There being dyvers Comiffions for trading likely to iffue out of the Cort It is ordered to oven fome inconveniences we have happened, that if any of their fhipps shall ariue at one towne together . . . to stay vntill the former shipps trade be done or to compound wth them, otherwise to depart to another place, and not to doe anything directly or indirectly to the hinderance or disturbance of the other shipps

8th daie of Aprill Ao Dmi 1629

A CORT at James Citty the 8th daie of Aprill A. Dmi 1629

Offent

John Pott Efqr Gouernor &c Capt: Smyth.

At this Court was heard a difference depending betweene Gilbert Whitfeild plus against Robis Poole defends and it appeared that Robis Poole was indebted vnto the said Gilbert in the some of 1941 of tobaccoe and nyne barrells of Eares. Wherevppon it was agreed betweene them and the cort have thought fitt that the said Robis Poole shall give security to the said Whitfeild for the payms of the said Tobaccoe at the next cropp and to paie the Corne at or before the first of May next.

A comiffion was graunted vnto Robis Poole to goe a trading for Corne to the Eafterne

At this Cort a Controversie depending between Musick[?] William[?] and Richard Bennett[?] was . . . Concerning the granting of a lease of Certaine land in Warrosquoaicke,

quoaicke, and for that there was not witnes plduced to pive anything on eyther Pt the Cort hath referred the examinacon of the Contest to Capt Baffe[?] and hath retourned the same to the Gouernor and Councell at the next Quarter Cort heare holden.

George Vnwin aged thirty yeares or thereabouts fworne and exaied fayth that Dorcas Howard his maide being at worke in the grounde on Monday the two and twentieth daie of March last past, as this exaite taketh it, shee began to complaine that she was not well and being come into the howse shee fell very sick Wherevppon this dept demaunded of her what shee ayles who answered I am very ill in my body, and wished that her dame were wth her for her dame could give her ease, then this dept demaunded of her if the were wth Childe to wch thee answered noe wherevppon this dept threatned to beate her if shee would not tell him the truth why she was soe payned and then blently fhe confessed she was wth Childe and that Robte Gage was the ffather And [then] this exaite bade her goe to bed and asked her [to] call fome weomen to her, but fhee intreated [that] hee would not And in the morning (the faid Dorcas being in bed) this exaite demaunded of her how shee did who answered I have had a mischance, And then offently hee came to his wife and tould her of it and asked her what hee should doe who bade him goe backe and call fome weomen to view the Child. Wherevppon this dept fent for one Moorecocks wife who came and looked vppon it but whether it were borne aliue or deade this dept knoweth not, nor more to this matter cann hee depose.

Elizabeth Moorecocke the wife of Reiginald Moorecocke of the age of thirty yeares or thereabouts fworne and exaied fayth that George Vnwin came to this exaiats howse and tould her that her [his] maide was broughte a bed and had Carried out the Childe but had not buried it and desired this dept to come and view it wherevppon this deport went wth him and looked vppon the Childe wch was a boy, and the mould of the head was bruised, but for anyother thing this dept could Pceave the Childe might bee borne alyve, and this is all this dept can depose in this matter.

At this Cort George Vnwin planter did acknowledge to owe vnto Our foveraigne Lord the King 40¹¹ foveraigne englishe money wto continewed till condicon Dorcas Howard shall appeare at the Quarter Cort to bee March Qrter Co. holden at James Citty

At this Cort the Church wardens of the Pishe of the lower Ptes of Eliz Citty did Psent that William Capps and John Sipse Pishioners there doe not repaire nor frequent the said Pishe Church to heare dyvine service according to the lawes and orders of this Colony in such cases prided, It is therefore ordered that for soe long tyme as it shall be pued that the said Capps and Sipse have beene absent from the said Church, that they shall pay such sines as by an actte therefor made are prided to be paid: the said sines to bee levied at the next Crop by way of distresse.

Exaicons taken before John Pott Esqr gouernor the 25th day of March Ao [1629]

francis England of the age of twenty yeares or thereabouts fworne and exaied faith That Thomas Hall (being exaied by Cap: Baffe wether hee were man or woeman (as himfelfe did confesse to this exaite) toulde this exaite that hee answered Capt: Baffe that hee was both man and woeman And this exaiate further sayth that the said Hall being at Atkins arbor one Nicholas . . . asked him why hee went in weomans aparell the said Hall answered in the hearing of this dept I goe in weomans aparell to gett a bitt for my Catt And hee further sayth that there was a Rumor and Report that the said Hall did by wth a maid of Mr Richard Bennetts called greate Beffe And hee likewise sayth that hee this exaite and one Roger Rodes being at the vpper plantacon after it had beene rumored that the said Hall was a man and that hee was put in mans apparell the said Hall being then there with them, the said Rodes tould Hall thou hast beene reported to be a woman and now thou art fixed to bee a man, I will see what thou carriest, Wherevppon the said Rodes laid hands vppon the said Hall, and this exaite did soe likewise, and they threw the said Hall on his backe, and then this exaite felt the said Hall and pulled out his members whereby it appeared that hee was a Afect man, and more hee cannot depose.

John Atkins of the age of 29 yeares or thereabouts fworne and exaied depofeth and fayth That Mr Stacy having reported that Hall now a fervante vnto this exaiate was as hee thought a man and woeman, not long after, the faid Hall (being then fervante to Rob" Eyros and John Tyos) and being at Nicholas Eyros his howse Alice Longe Dorothye Rodes and Barbara Hall being at that tyme in the faid howse, vppon the faid Report did fearch the faid Hall and found (as they then faid) that hee was a man but the faid Tyos fwore the faid Hall was a woeman (as the faid Dorothy Rodes did often affirme vnto this depot Wherevppon Cap: Baffe exaied the faid Hall in the pince of this depte whether hee were man or woeman, the faid Hall replyed hee was both only hee had not the vie of the mans #te . . . was a peece of fleshe growing at the . . . belly as bigg as 7 the topp of his little finger [an] inch longe wherevppon Capt: Baffe Commanded [him] to bee put in woemans apparell, but the aforefaid fearchers were not fully refolved, but ftood in doubte of what they had formerly affirmed, and being (about the twelveth of february) at this exaiates howfe the faid Hall dwelling then wth him, and finding the faid Hall afleepe did againe fearch him and then allfoe found the faid Hall to bee a man and at that plent[ly] called this exaiate to fee the proof thereof, but the faid Hall feeming to ftarre as if fhee had beene awake this exaiate lefte him and at that inftant Could fee nothing But the Sunday following, those ferchers being againe affembled and the wife of Allen Kinafton and the wife of Ambrofe Griffen being in Company wth them were againe defirous to fearch the faid Hall, and having fearched him in the pince [presence] of this Deponent did then likewise finde him to bee a man Wherevppon this exaiat asked him if that were all hee had to weh hee answered I have a peece of an hole and therevppon this dept commanded him to lye on his backe and fhew the fame And the faid woemen fearching him againe did againe finde him to bee a man Wherevppon the fd exaiate did Comaunde him to bee put into mans apparell And the day following went to Captaine Baffe, and tould him that the faid Hall was founde to bee a man and defired that hee might be punished for his abuse And this dept further fayth that the faid Hall (as this dept hath heard) did question the said Alice Long for reporting that hee had layen wth a mayd of Mr Richard Bennetts, to weh fhee answered I reported it not, but Penny[?] Tyos his man reported foe much And this is all this exaiate can fay.

Thomas Hall exaied faith that hee being borne at or neere Newcaftle vppon Tyne was as hee hath beene often tould Christned by the name of Thomasine and soe was called and went Clothed in woemans apparell there vntill the age of twelue yeares at wch age the said Exaiats mother sent him to his Aunte in London and there hee lyved ten[?] ye[ares] vntill Cales Accon, at wch tyme a brother of his being offed for that service this exaiate Cut of his heire and Changed his apparell into the fashion of man and went over as a souldier in the Isle of Ree being in the habit of a man, from whence when he was retorned hee came to Plymouth, and there hee changed himselfe into woemans apparell and made bone lace and did other worke wth his needle, and shortly after Shipping being ready for a voyage into this Country hee Changed againe his apparell into the habit of a man and soe came over into this Country.

It was therevppon at this Co^{rt} ordered that it shall bee published in the plantacon where the said Hall lyveth that hee is a man and a woeman, that all the Inhabitants there may take notice thereof and that hee shall goe Clothed in mans apparell, only his head to bee attired in a Coyse and Croscloth[?] wth an Apron before him And that hee shall sinde suerties for his good behavior from Quarter Cort to Quarter Cort vntill the Cort shall dischardge him and Capt Nathaniell Basse is ordered to see this order executed accordingly.

for as much as Edward Waller did at this Cort comence his fuit against John Johnson about the sale of a sowe and the taking away of a peece, and because Johnson testified to this Cort that hee sent a pigg in the of satisfaccon and the peece by Richard Dolphenby to the said Edward Waller the went the said Waller affirmed hee never receaved And for that the said Mr Waller hath dyvers witnesses to examine in this Cause went at this Cort were not psent It is ordered that the Captain Smyth shall examine the said Dolphenby

vppon

vppon his oath Concerning the fame, and the Cause is referred to bee determined at the next Quarter Cort

It is ordered that every comaunder wthin the feverall plantacons of this Colony fhall take a generall muster of all the inhabitants men woemen and Children as well Englishe as Negroes inhabiting wthin the same and Retorne a lift of their names to the Governor and Councell at the next Quarter Cort to bee here holden.

John Virgo being bound by Recognizance to appeare this Cort hath made default whereby hee hath forfe[yted] to the Kings Matie 4011 fterling.

Charles Waller beeing bound by Recognizance to appeare at this Cort hath made defaulte whereby hee hath forfeyted 4011 fterling to the Kings Matie

the 9th daie of Aprill 1629.

A CORT at James Citty the 9th daie of Aprill 1629.

Blent.

John Pott Efqr Gouernor &c. Capt: Smyth. Mr ffarrar.

At this Cort was pferred a peticon by Leift Willoughby and others for reftoring a \$\mathbb{H}\$te of their \$\mathbb{H}\$ifhe werd they ptende was taken awaie and added to another \$\mathbb{H}\$ifhe And for that it appeared by an order of Cort that all Controversies concerning the deviding of the said \$\mathbb{H}\$ishes should stand as then it did vntill it should bee devided by a generall Assembly or by some other lawfull hearing And for as much as the Cort at this tyme is not full by reason of the absence of some of the Councell The gouernor and Councell now psent haue ordered that the hearing and determining of the said Cause shall bee referred vntill the retorne of \$M^t\$ Secretary, when imediately after they intende to haue a full meeting to decide the same.

At this Cort was fived the will nuncupative of Robie Adames of Martins hundred vppon the oath of John Lyford Minister.

ffor as much as it appeared to this Cort that there was a Covennte betweene Mr Lyford Minister of Martins hundred and Mr Willm Harwood and other the Hishioners there whereby it was to bee agreed by them to giue Mr Lyford 200011 weight of tobaccoe and a sufficient quantity of Corne yearly And for that the plantacon is very small in soe much that it is likely to ly very heavie on the Hishioners, and because the said agreemt was made by the Hswation of the said Mr Harwood vppon some hope of inlarding the said Hishe by adding some plantacon neere adioyinge, to the same It is agreed betweene Mr Harwood and the rest of the Hishioners, and the Cort doth thinke sitt that Mr Harwood shall pay one third Ht of the said tobacco and Corne, and the rest of the Hishioners shall paie the other two thirds amongst them.

Vppon a difference betweene William [and] Tuke, for that it appeared that . . . worke wth the faid Tuke by the space of a mon[eth it] is ordered That the said Tuke shall lett vnto . . . in liew of his monethes worke one acre of ground lying wthin his owne planted grounde for this yeare rent free.

At this Cort was brought in the will of Edward Davis and fived to bee his last will and testamt and that hee was in Psecte sence and memory at the making thereof.

At this Cort Elenor Price delyvered in vppon her Corporall oath the Inventory of Edward Price her late husband deceased to bee a true and Price inventory of all his goods debtes and credits to the utmost of her knowledge.

A comiffion of admftracon was graunted vnto *Elenor Price* on the eftate of *Robin* and the inventory was then delyvered in to bee a true and Pfect inventory of his eftate vppon her corporall oath.

A Comission of admstracon was graunted vnto Capt Nathaniell Basse on the estate of . . . , And the inventory of the said estate was then likewise delyvered in vppon his oath to bee a true and Psecte inventory &c

10th daie

(197)

10th daie of May 1629

A CORT at James Citty the 10th day of May 1629
filent
John: Pott Efqr Gouernor &c Capt: Smyth:

John Warham Marchant aged twenty fiue yeares or thereabouts fworne and exaied faith That Anthony Leane did Covennte wth Mr Thomas Mayhew to ferve him one wholle yeare to ende at Christmas next for wth Mr Mayhew was to give the faid Leane twenty pounds sterling, and that the faid Leane was cheifly to bee employed about the affaires of his boate

It is therevppon ordered that the faid Leane shall serve Mr Edward Mayhew vntill Christmas next hee paying the said Leane such wages and Horming such Covennts as his brother Mr Thomas Mayhew was to pay and Horme And the said Mr Mayhew doth smile not to set the said Leane to the Hoe but to employ him about the affaires of his boate and such other business.

the . . . 1629

A CORT at James [Citty] the . . . 1629

plent

John Pott Elqr gouernor &c Capt: Smyth.

At this Cor articles of agreem made betweene [Edward] Wigg and Steven Barker concerning the marriadge of Steven Barkers may de were brought in question, and being reade, it appeared that the said Edward Wigg had broken his said Covennts And for that a bill was at this tyme oduced and read wherein the said Edward Wigg standeth bound to the said Steven Barker in 50011 of tobaccoe for the formance of the said Covennts It is ordered that the said Steven Barker shall recover the said 50011 of tobaccoe of the said Edward Wigg according to the said Bill.

8th daie of . . . Ao Dmi 1629

A T A Cort At James Citty the 8th daie of . . . A. Dmi 1629

plent

John Pott Esqr Gouernor &c Capt: Smyth:

At this Co^{rt} Rob^t Hutchenfon planter did acknowledge to owe vnto O^r Soveraigne Lord the Kinges Ma^{tie} that . . . is forty pounds of Lawfull mony of England &c . . . Condicon that he shall appeare at the next Quarter Co^{rt} and in the meane tyme to bee of the good behauio^r

At this Cort a Comiffion of Admítracon was graunted vnto Capt Robte ffelgate on the eftate of Lt Eyles Allington.

Christofer Allett planter aged 25 yeares or thereabouts sworne and exaied sayth that about a month or six weekes since Goodwife Gray wth her husband and others came to the howse of Mr Cheeseman (William Carters wise being in an inner roome in the said howse) and at their goeing awaie the said Carters wise asked this dept what woeman it was to whome this dept answered it is yor Cosen Grays wise wherevnto Carters wise replied, I will have no such whoores to my Cosen, wherevppon this dept often bade her take heede what shee said for hee never heard any ill by that woeman, but Carters wise said, shee is a whoore, and is reported to bee a whoore, and this is all this dept can say to this matter.

Steven