



THE BULLETIN OF THE KING WILLIAM COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF VIRGINIA

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KING WILLIAM COURT HOUSE

The following contains excerpts from a report to Mr. Charles Waddell, former County Manager, from Carl Lounsbury, Research Associate, The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, dated March 8, 1983.

The opportunity to closely study the fabric of King William Courthouse arose in January, 1983, prior to a substantial renovation of the building by the county. From January 12-14, 1983, members of the architectural research department at Colonial Williamsburg removed early twentieth century plaster and concrete from the interior walls of the courtroom, judge's chamber, and jury room in order to examine evidence of earlier building periods.

The principal features revealed in this process were: 1) joist pockets in the northern end of the west and east walls which supported the judge's platform in the early nineteenth century, 2) wooden nailing blocks wedged beneath the ceiling joists which secured a bed moulding of an eighteenth-century interior cornice, 3) the original openings for the doors which lead into the smaller judge's chamber on the west side and jury room on the east side of the courtroom, and, 4) the original fireplace openings in these two latter rooms.

The stripping of the walls, along with a close look at the attic construction, has allowed us to define a sequence of building activity. Briefly summarized, the major building campaigns at King William Courthouse occurred in three major phases.

Period I, initial construction, took place some time in the eighteenth century. The traditional date of 1725 is not verifiable through documents or through field investigation. If the original date of construction is unknown, the appearance of the fabric suggests a mid-eighteenth century date. There is no evidence of a severe fire which may have damaged or destroyed the building in the late eighteenth century.

The second major phase of construction occurred in the early nineteenth century with the extension of the courtroom an additional bay to the north. Other changes during Period II consisted of the insertion of exterior doorways on the west and east walls for additional access into the courtroom from other buildings such as the prison and clerk's office.

About one hundred years after this expansion, the courthouse underwent a thorough renovation in the 1920's. The main features of Period III include the blocking of the exterior doorways opened in Period II and the shifting of the doors into the judge and jury rooms from on center northward to their present location. Both the floors and ceilings in all three rooms were renewed, replacing original or subsequent features. During the 1930's or 1940's, the sloping wooden floor which had been installed c. 1926 or before was replaced by a level concrete slab, thus obliterating most, if not all, traces of the original height and configuration of the floor beneath concrete.

EVIDENCE:

Attic: Based on the evidence from the purlins and plates over the courtroom, the original north end of the roof was hipped before it

was replaced by the nineteenth century extension. All timbers in the original hip roof were pit sawn with some evidence of hewing. Rafters and joists in the north bay extension were also pit sawn and hewn.

Exterior cornice: The presence of wrought nails which secure the soffit and modillion bands suggest that these parts of the eaves are original. The fascia board and cornice mould appear to have been replaced. For the most part, the modillions appear to be original.

Interior cornice: Evidence for an eighteenth century cornice can be found in more than a half dozen small wooden nailing blocks located on the south, east, and west walls of the courtroom *in situ* beneath the ceiling joists and flush against the top edge of the brick walls.

Floors: The floor in the courtroom prior to the present concrete slab was a sloping wooden floor which may have been installed in the c. 1926 renovation or perhaps earlier.

Fireplaces: The openings of the two fireplaces in the judge's chamber and jury room appear to be relatively undisturbed. The fireplaces appear not to have been plastered. The west judge's chamber fireplace retained many old studs with some split laths secured by wrought nails which suggest that the overmantle was not panelled but plastered.

Window openings and mouldings: All window openings in the courtroom were lowered several brick courses as well as widened during Period III renovations in the 1920's. Opposite the two front arcade windows, on the back north walls, the openings retain their original size.

Door openings and mouldings: The south entrance retains its original size but doors and surrounds have been renewed in the twentieth century. The two doors on the east and west courtroom walls which opened to the outside were inserted in the Period II renovation, it has been suggested, in order for officials to gain access to the expanded courtroom without having to pass through the main public entrance. These openings were closed during Period III renovations nearly one hundred years later.

The original openings into the two wing chambers were blocked during Period III renovations in the early twentieth century and two new openings made to the north along the line of the north wing walls. The evidence for this sequence of changes in the openings was found in the modern mortar, scoring, and bricks used to accomplish the renovations.

Walls: As the plaster was stripped from the east and west courtroom walls, putlog holes were discovered which ran the distance of the eighteenth century side walls. Much more curious, and as yet unexplained, were a set of pockets about six and a half feet high and three feet from the south wall which appeared in both the east and west walls.

Speculation about these being the joist pockets for a gallery, albeit a very low and shallow one, were put forward as one consideration. No evidence for these pockets appeared on the south wall, however. Another suggestion was that they were putlog holes for scaffolding for some special purpose, or, that they were misplaced and not used for anything.

COURT HOUSE PICTURES

In February 1983, Mr. Robert B. Mayo, President of Mayo Gallery in Richmond, reviewed the collection of pictures which have hung in the Court House. The following is his discription of these pictures:

1. JUDGE ROGER GREGORY (1833-190?) — J. P. Walker. Oil on canvas, 30 by 25 inches, signed on reverse at top and bottom, 1920.
2. BENJAMIN CAMM GARRET (1861-1923) — G. Watson James, Jr. Oil on canvas, 26 by 20 inches, signed lower right.
3. BENJAMIN CAMM GARRETT, JR. (1899-1973). Photograph, 24 by 20 inches.
4. JUDGE OWEN OVERTON GWATHMEY (1849-1922) Verona C. C. _____ (illegible). Oil on board, 24 by 18 inches, signed lower right.
5. SAMUEL STRAUGHAN ROBINSON (1879-1952) — Oil on canvas, 24 by 20 inches, signed lower right, but signature is illegible.
6. GENERAL PHILLIP AYLETT (1791-1848). Photograph of a drawing, 16 by 20 inches.
7. JUDGE JOHN D. FOSTER (1839-1891) — Waite. Photograph with charcoal highlights, 20 by 16 inches, signed lower right.
8. JOHN WILLIAM TAYLOR (1829-1889) — W. S. Murphy, Charcoal on paper, 28 by 22 inches, signed middle left, 1896.
9. PHILLIP GIBSON (1830-1904). Pastel over a photograph, 18 by 14 inches.
10. THOMAS POLLARD BAGBY (1854-1889). Photograph with charcoal highlights on paper, 18 by 14 inches.
11. JAMES OTWAY POLLARD (1820-1873). Photograph with charcoal highlights on paper, 18 by 14 inches.
12. WILLIAM DANDRIDGE POLLARD (1836-1906). Photograph with charcoal highlights on paper, 16 by 12 inches.
13. BEVERLY BROWNE DOUGLAS (1822-1878) — Bendarin. Screened photograph on paper, 17½ by 13½ inches, signed lower left.
14. CAPTAIN THOMAS WITT HAYNES (1827-1877). Photograph with charcoal highlights on paper, 18 by 14 inches.
15. THOMAS OVERTON DABNEY (1807-1870). Photograph with charcoal highlights on paper, 18 by 14 inches.
16. OCTAVIUS MADISON WINSTON (1827-1893). Photograph with charcoal highlights on paper, 20 by 16 inches.
17. DOCTOR JOHN LATANE LEWIS (1820-1898). Photograph with charcoal highlights on paper, 18 by 14 inches.
18. COLONEL THOMAS HILL CARTER (1831-1908). Photograph with highlights on paper, 25 by 20 inches.
19. JOHN WILLIAM CLARK (1859-1906) — George M. Norris. Photograph on paper, 21 by 16 inches signed lower left and dated 1907.
20. DR. WILLIAM GEORGE POLLARD (1818-1862). Photograph with charcoal highlights on paper, 18 by 14 inches.
21. JUDGE JAMES M. JEFFRIES (1809-1890) — Waite. Photograph with charcoal highlights on paper, 20 by 16 inches, signed lower right.
22. THOMAS HENRY EDWARDS (1866- ?). Photograph with charcoal highlights on paper, 18 by 14 inches.
23. PATRICK HENRY AYLETT (1826-1870). Photograph on paper, 20 by 15 inches.
24. ATWELL TEBBS MOOKLAR (1827-1901). Photograph with charcoal highlights on paper, 18 by 14 inches, titled at bottom: Hom. A. T. Mooklar
25. DR. WILLIAM VIRGINIUS CROXTON (1840-1900). Photograph with charcoal highlights on paper, 17 by 14 inches.
26. CAMM S. GARRETT (1821-1875). Photograph with charcoal and graphite highlights on paper, 18 by 14 inches.
27. ROBERT POLLARD, JR. (1783-1856) — Artist Unknown. Oil on canvas, 24 by 16 inches.
28. COLONEL WILLIAM ROANE AYLETT (1833-1900). Photograph on paper, 30 by 25 inches.
29. HERBERT IVERSON LEWIS (1854-1928). Photograph on paper, 24 by 20 inches.

30. DAVID NELSON SUTTON (1895-1974) — Dementi Studios. Photograph on paper, 24 by 20 inches, signed lower right on surface of photo.
31. DOCTOR WILLIAM ROANE AYLETT, JR. (1871- ?) — E. S. Gordon. Oil on canvas, 30 by 23 inches, signed lower right. Mr. Thomas T. H. Hill, former Clerk of the Circuit Court, recently presented a booklet containing a resumé of each of the gentlemen in these pictures. This booklet is on display in the Clerk's Office.

KING WILLIAM COURTHOUSE

We are indedebted to George Meredith for this article which was published in the West Point Star around 1900-05.

The young men of this neighborhood gave a "turkey feast" Saturday night, in R. Y. Henly's store. At 8:30 o'clock the counters in the store were tastefully decorated with evergreens, and supper was served by Mr. Clyde Garrett and Vernon Arnold in "Old Bachelor's Style". Mr. James B. Hill was master of ceremony, and said grace to the crowd in a very pathetic way. These were his words:

"Grace in the kitchen,
Grace in the hall,
Hope this supper
May be enough for all."

As each young man came up to partake of the "feast" he had to give a "Toast".

First — Mr. Clyde Garrett:

As long as my finger,
As short as my thumb,
If I have any
I will give you some."

Second — Lynard Hill:

"Turkey when I am hungrey,
Wine when I am dry,
Greenback when I am hard up,
Religion when I die."

Third — H. C. Littlepage:

"Here is to those who like
turkey well,
Those who don't like it can
go to H---unting."

Fourth — Emmett Littlepage:

"When you burry me
Burry me deep,
A big turkey at my feet
And a jug in my hand
And all the rest of you can
understand."

Fifth — Willie Reid:

"When I am dead
and in my grave,
No more turkey will I
crave."

Sixth — Herbert King:

"Now I lay me down to sleep,
A nice old turkey at my feet,
If I die before I wake,
You'll know I died with an
awful ache."

Seventh — Larkin Garrett:

"Hill side lined with ginger cake,
Turkey floating in brandy,
Money growing on pine trees,
Pretty girl's kiss like candy."

Eighth — Vernon Arnold:

“Luck to the ‘Gobbler’
Same to the ‘hen’
Lord bless the women folks,
Take care of the men.”

Ninth — R. Y. Henley:

“When we assemble
Expecting to eat,
What is better
Than turkey meat.”

Tenth — J. B. Hill:

“Lord bless the owl
That caught the fowl,
And left the bones
For ‘Servant Jones’.”

Eleventh — H. C. King:

“This is the King,
William eleven.
May we all meet in
Heaven.”

They indulged in a hearty supper, and then the crowd indulged in telling jokes and playing games of various kinds. Last but not least cake and wine were served and each drank to the health of the others for a happy and prosperous New Year.

GENEALOGY CORNER

Since the first of this year King William has received a large amount of genealogy letters. Because of the disastrous fire in 1885 we could not help the following letter writers. If you have any information on these former county residents, please write. Your letters will be most appreciated.

“Seeking information on family of *Reuben Turner* of King William Executor of the estate of George Turner, 1772, and in 1790’s was married to Mary _____. Also, *Dabney Turner*, son of Mary Dabney and _____ Turner. Mary (Dabney Turner was the daughter of Cornelius Dabney.”

Mrs. Jean Talley Hooper
1409 Sarah Drive, Silver Spring, Md. 20904

“Any information on the *Floyd* family. John Floyd died in 1756. Had children: Thomas, Stephen, Jesse, John, William, Morrise and Elizabeth.”

Norma Floyd, 2272 Adams Avenue,
Norwood, Ohio 45212

“A *Robert Rainwater* owned property in King William Co. in 1706. Any records on this Robert Rainwater will be appreciated.”

Christine F. Conrad
4840 S. State Ave.,
Indianapolis, Indiana 46277

“Copy of a Will made by *William Terrell* and his wife, Susannah, giving their son, Henry, power of attorney to act in their behalf.”

Cleo M. Archer, 149 S. 31st St.
Newark, Ohio 43055

“Looking for Will or possibly a property inventory/accounts record on *Vincent Inge* who was living in your county during the early 1700’s.”

Luther C. Inge, 2727 Guilford Lane
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73120

“Am writing a book on the “History of Forage Harvesting” and note that on Nov. 8, 1811 a *William Presley Claiborne* patented a combine or reaper “For cutting Wheat and Other Small Grain. . .”

Do you have any information on this?”

Arnold B. Skromme, 2605 31st St.,
Moline, Illinois 61265

“*Major Nathaniel Burwell* died in King William County on 30 March 1802. Do you have record of death or place of burial?”

Lewis Burwell, P.O. Box 92
Floyd, Virginia 24091

“Will of *Thomas Swann*, proven on November 19, 1704.”

Mrs. John L. Ruby, Rt. 1, Box 90A
Irons, Michigan 49644

“Need proof that *Roger Mallory II* is the father of the Roger Mallory who died in Orange County in 1743.”

Pat Gundy, 1001 Patricia
Deer Park, Texas 77536

“I am a decendent of John R. Rupert, Sr. who was born in 1791 and died in 1855. I have received information that my Rupert line might have originated in Sweet Hall, Va. — the time period would be 1700’s. Do you have any information on this?”

Vicki Zimmerman, Box 414
Spearing St. Howard, Penna 16841

“Can you provide me with a copy of a birth record for *John Hannon Gregory*, born 1886, father Deucalion Gregory of King William. I am trying to establish the genealogical line between these two.”

Lewis Gregory, 1706 N. Main St.
Scotland Neck, North Carolina 27874

TAX BOOK OF COL. HARDIN LITTLEPAGE 1815

(Continued from Number 7, October 1981)

WILLIAM BAGBY

Tax on 3 Negroes 16 ys. old	2.40
2 horses .42 - 2 cattle .06	.48
1 Mahg. Tea Table	.25
4 County & poor rates	2.48
	<hr/>
	5.61
fee bills	2.86
	<hr/>
	8.47

WILLIAM BURKE

Tax on 100 acres Land	1.27
3 Negroes 16 ys. old	2.40
1 do 9 ys old	.50
3 horses .63 - 8 Cattle .24	.87
1 Chest Drawers not mahg.	.12½
5 County & poor rates	3.10
	<hr/>
	8.26½
due for 1814	.60
	<hr/>
	8.86½

THOMAS BLACKWELL

Tax on 162 acres Land	2.42
8 Negroes 12 ys old	6.40
3 horses .63 - 12 Cattle .36	.99
Gigg .67 1 wooden clock no case .25	.92
1 Book case not mahg.	.25
3 Chests Drawers do	.37½
2 Lookg Glasses under 3 feet	2.00
8 County & poor rates	4.96
	<hr/>
	18.31½
312½ acres land charges to Augustine Blackwell	3.26
	<hr/>
	21.57½

WALLER BURKE	
Tax on 5 Negroes 16 ys old	4.00
1 do 9 ys old	.50
4 horses .84 - 12 Cattle .36	1.20
Gigg	.67
6 County & Poor rates	3.72
	<u>10.09</u>
fee bills	1.59
	<u>11.68</u>

CHARLES H. BRAXTON	
Tax on 283 acres Land & 50 marsh	6.12
14 Negroes 12 ys. old	11.20
2 do 9 ys old	1.00
7 horses 1.47 - 10 Cattle .30	1.77
Stage Waggon	3.33
1 Mahg. Beadstead	.25
11 County & Poor rates	6.82
	<u>30.49</u>
fee bills	11.32
	<u>41.81</u>

CORBIN BRAXTON	
Tax on 283 acres high & 237 acres Marsh Land	6.34
Negroe 16 ys. old	.80
2 horses	.42
2 County & poor rates	1.24
Phisician Tax	12.50
	<u>21.30</u>

HICKERSON BAGWELL	
Tax on 32½ acres Land	.32
5 Cattle .15 - 1 chest drawers not mahg. .12½	.27½
1 County & poor rate	.62
	<u>1.21½</u>

HENRY BRENAN	
Tax on 215½ acres Land	3.20
3 Negroes 12 ys. old	2.40
2 do 9 ys old	1.00
2 horses .42 - 10 Cattle .30	.72
Gigg .67 1 Silver Watch .50	1.17
1 Wooden Clock no case	.25
1 Mahg. Chest Drawers	.25
1 Lookg Glass under 2 feet gilt frame	.50
3 County & poor rates	1.86
	<u>11.35</u>
fee bills	24.19
	<u>35.54</u>

PETER BOWDEN	
Tax on 2 Negroes 16 ys old	1.60
1 Chest Drawers not mahg.	.12½
3 County & poor rates	1.86
	<u>3.58½</u>

THOMAS BOND	
Tax on 37½ acres Land	.36
2 horses .42 - 4 Cattle .12	.54
1 County & poor rate	.62
	<u>1.52</u>
fee bill	.75
	<u>2.27</u>

JOHN T. BAGWELL	
Tax on 1 Negroe 12 ys. old	.80
1 horse	.21
2 County & poor rates	1.24
	<u>2.25</u>
fee bill	.44
	<u>2.69</u>

JOHN BROOKE	
1 County & poor rate	.62
ELIZABETH BINGHAM	
Tax on 3 lotts	.58
1 Chest Drawers not mahg.	.12½
3 Cattle .09 - 2 mahg. dining tables .50	.59
5 Chairs mahg.	.31½
2 Looking Glasses under 3 feet	2.00
	<u>3.61</u>
due for the last year	.61
	<u>4.22</u>

ANN BINGHAM	
Tax on 6 lotts	1.99
1 Negroe 16 ys old .80 - 2 Cattle .06	.86
1 Chest Draers not mahg.	.12½
5 pictures over 12 ins. wide	.75
1 County & poor rate	.62
	<u>4.34½</u>
due for 1812, 1813, 1814	14.57½
	<u>18.92</u>

JOHN BREEDEN	
Tax on 1 Negroe 9 ys old	.50
1 horse .21 - 2 Cattle .06	.27
1 Chest Drawers not mahg.	.12½
1 County & poor rate	.62
	<u>1.51½</u>
2 lott chd. to Benjamin Catlett for 1814 & 1815	3.82
	<u>5.33½</u>

JOHN BRADFORD	
1 County & poor rate	.62
due for the last year	4.88½
	<u>5.50½</u>

The King William County Historical Society holds three meetings each year: 1st Sunday April — King William Court House; 2nd Sunday July — an old home in the county; 1st Sunday October — King William Court House. Membership Dues — \$3.00 per year.

OFFICERS — 1983-84

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