OLD KENT

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OLD KENT
Notes Illustrative of the Early Records
OF
KENT COUNTY, MARYLAND
BY
GEORGE A. HANSON, M. A.,
OF RADCLIFFE HALL

Sec. 1. b. We have seen that Governor Leonard Calvert on the 16th day of April 1647, pardoned the few adherents of Clayborne who took the oath of fealty, and remained in Kent, viz: Thomas Bradnox, Edward Comins, John Metham, Thomas Belt, Robert Short, Francis Lumbard, John Ayres, Zachary Wade, Richard Catesford, Edward Lannin and Walter Joanes, and also, on the 18th day of April 1647, commissioned Captain ROBERT VAUGHAN "to be chief Captain and Commander of all the militia of the Isle of Kent, and with it to command and execute whatsoever shall be by him thought requisite for the defence of the said Island against all intestine mutinies, or seditions, that shall happen within the said Island, and against all invasions of any foreign enemies whatsoever," and also authorized the said Captain ROBERT VAUGHAN to award all process necessary, according to the law and custom of this province, for or concerning all actions civil and cirminal within the said Isle of Kent; and he authorized the said Captain ROBERT VAUGHAN, William Cox, Thomas Bradnox, Edward Comins, Philip Conner and Francis Brooke, gent., or the major part of them, whereof the said ROBERT VAUGHAN, to be always one, to hear, Kitry ,and judge, according to the laws of this province, all actions and causes civil, which shall happen between party and party,"—"and to award execution upon the same except where the freehold of any one shall come in question, provided that it shall be lawful for any man, at any time before execution served, to appeal from the said judgment unto the provincial court of this province,"—and "to hear and judge, according to the laws of this province, all crimes, and offences committed within the said Island, and to cause such sentence, as shall be given by them therein, to be executed, excepting where the life or member of any one person shall come in question."

And that on the 9th day of June 1647, the Governor died, respected by all, after having appointed, lying on his death bed, by verbal nomination, Thomas Greene, Esq., Governor of the Province of Maryland.

1647-8.

Section 2. The first entry in LIBER A. COURT PROCEEDINGS OF KENT COUNTY, is as follows, viz:

"At a Court holden for this Island, at Mr. Philip Conier his house, on ye 3rd of Janaury, 1647,

"Present, Capt. ROBERT VAUGHAN, Commander, Mr. THOMAS BRADNOX, Mr. PHILIP CONIER, Mr. ED. COMMINS, Mr. FRANCIS BROOKE."

The first case is thus recorded:

JOHN METHAN complaineth against Francis Lumbard, in an action of debt to the value of four hundred pounds of tobacco and cask, and for this he bringeth his suit."

"The Court ordereth, that the plaintiff shall recover one hundred pounds of tobacco and cask, and the defendant to recover of Ed. Commins ninety pounds of tobacco and cask." Fol. 1.

The next case is that of JOHN WINCHESTER, who complaineth against Edward Commins, gent., in an action of slander," and claims "five thousand pounds of tobacco and cask." Warrant granted."

"The Court ordereth that the defendant shall ask the Wife of the plaintiff forgiveness in open court, for the slander, and likewise to pay to the woman 500 (50?) lbs. of tobacco and cask in satisfaction, with Court charges." Fol. 1.

Sec. 2. a. TOBACCO. Great attention was paid to the planting of Tobacco at the earliest period in the history of Kent; and it became the legal currency of the Province. It is therefore necessary that we should ascertain if possible this standard of value, comparatively, at least, and fix it in our mind. At the General Assembly begun and held at St. Mary's, on the 25th day of January 1637-38, a Bill ("17. A Bill for ordering the payment of Tobacco") was agreed to, but failed to become a Law. We are therefore left to conjecture, that the value of tobacco was about the same, then, as was established in Virginia, which was at "the rate of 6d (six pence English money) per lb. for every pound of tobacco, as the goods (imported) first cost in England, bona fide." (Vide Act of 1631-2, chap. xix., Henning's Statutes at Large of Virginia. Vol. I. 1618-1660.) The value of Tobacco in Maryland, in the year 1640, is ascertained, by a commission to the Sheriff of Kent, bearing date the 7th day of December, 1640, (Vide Liber No. 1., Land Office, Annapolis,)—"these are, therefore, to will and require to demand of every several tennant possessed of or claiming to any land possessed or claimed by every such tenant, viz, for every fifty acres twelve pence sterling or the commodities of the country; for every year that he hath been possessed of the same, for which twelve pence you may receive four pound of tobacco or one peck of wheat; and whereas divers persons are possessed of several parcels of land by virtue of a pretended grant from Capt. William Clayborne, for the yearly rent of two capons, our will is that from such tenants you demand no more for the time past than the said two capons for every year that the rent hath been behind, and from such as shall be willing to commute the said rent into some other commodities, that you may take for every two capons sixteen pounds of tobacco or one bushel of wheat." The price of capons here was about the same as in England.

I can imagine Capt. Clayborne, while his clerk was writing the leases, recounting to his comrades his exploits around the deal tables at "Boar's Head Tavern," and how his mouth watered as he spoke of Mistress Quickly and her richly broiled and juicy capons.

Shakespeare entered at the Stationer's Register, 25th Feb. 1598, "The First Part of King Henry IV," and tells the price of capons. We copy the bill of fare stolen, by that facetious slubberbegullion Peto, from the pocket of the valiant Sir John Falstaff. Reference being made to the Record, will fully appear in manner and form as follows, to wit:

PRINCE—Hark, how hard he fetches breath. Search his pockets. (Peto searches.) What has thou found?

Peto.—Nothing but papers, my lord.

PRINCE.—Let's see what they be: read them.

Peto.—Item a capon	2s. 2d.
Item, sauce	4d.
Item, sack	5s. 8d.
Item, anchovies and sack after supper	2s. 6d.
Item, bread	½d.

PRINCE.—O monstrous! but one half-penny worth of bread to this intolerable deal of sack! Part First King Henry IV., act. ii ,scene iv.

By the "Act touching Tobacco," 1640, chap. x., the inspection of tobacco was established.

"Tobacco is the currant coyn of MaryLand, and will sooner purchase commodities from the Merchant, then money. I must confess the New England men that trade into this Province, had rather have fat Pork for their Goods, than Tobacco or Furrs, which I conceive is, because their bodies being fast bound up with the cords of restringent Zeal, they are fain to make use of the lineaments of this Non-Canaanite creature physically to loosen them; for a bit of a pound upon a two-penny Rye loaf, according to the original Receipt, will bring the costiv'st red-ear'd Zealot in some three hours time to a fine stool, if methodically observed."—Alsop. This is a curious observation as to New England Trade. A century later Hutchinson represents Massachusetts as receiving Maryland flour from the Pennsylvania mills, and paying in money and bills of exchange.—Hist. of Massachusetts, p. 397.

Sec. 2. b. TRIALS AT LAW. The The artificial view presented by George Alsop is a picture meet for a Poet's eye in a fine frenzy rolling. Mind you, he wrote in the year of Grace, 1666, when the Black-Blood Banner of Puritanism had long ceased to flaunt in the eyes of our people the difference "twixt tweedle-dum and tweedle-dee." Hear what the rollicking old roysterer says:

"Here the ROMAN CATHOLICK, and the PROTESTANT EPISCOPAL (whom the world would persuade have proclaimed open Wars irrevocably against each other,) contrarywise concur in an unanimous parallel of friendship, and inseparable love instayled into one another: All Inquisitions, Martyrdom and Banishments are not so much as named, but unexpressably abhorr'd by each other."

"Here Suits and Tryals in Law seldome hold dispute two Terms or Courts, but according as the Equity of the Cause appears is brought to a period.

"The Temples and Grays-Inns are clear out of fashion here: Marriott would sooner get a paunch-devouring meal for nothing, than for his invading Counsil. Here if the Lawyer had nothing else to maintain him but his bawling, he might button up his Chops, and burn his Buckrom Bag, or else hang it upon a pin until its Antiquity had eaten it up with durt and dust: Then with a Spade, like his Grandsire Adam, turn up the face of the Creation, purchasing his bread by the sweat of his brows, that before was got by the motionated Waterworks of his jaws. So contrary to the Genius of the people, if not to the quiet Government of the Province, that the turbulent spirit of continued and vexatious Law, with all its querks and evasions, is openly and most eagerly opposed, that might make matters either dubious, tedious, or troublesome. All other matters that would be ranging in contrary and improper Spheres, (in short) are here by the Power moderated, lower'd and subdued. All villanous Outrages that are committed in other States, are not so much as known here: A man may walk in the open Woods as secure from being externally dissected, as in his own house or dwelling. So hateful is a Robber, that if but once imagin'd to be so, he's kept at a distance, and shunn'd as the Pestilential noysomnness."

"It is generally and very remarkably observed, That those whose Lives and Conversations have had no other gloss nor glory stampt on them in their own Country, but the stigmatization of baseness, are here (by the common civilities and deportments of the Inhabitants of this Province) brought to detest and loath their former actions." Verily, a delightsome land, flowing with the milk of human kindness, the sweet honey of concord, and Tobacco-juice!

Sec. 2. c. ROBERT VAUGHAN. This gentleman's name first appears in Maryland history, on the 5th day of January, 1 37-38, when he was commissioned a Constable of St. George's Hundred, St. Mary's county. In the General Assembly, which met the 18th day of July 1642, he sat as a Burgess from Kent, and made that celebrated motion which is recorded, as follows, viz:

"Robert Vaughan, in the name of the Best ,desires the House might be separated, and the Burgesses to be by themselves, and to have a negative. But was not granted by the Lieutenant General."

In the Assembly, which met on the 20th January 1647-48, Capt. Robert Vaughan again, sat as the delegate from Kent.

On the 12th day of August 1648, he was commissioned by the Lord Proprietary, "one of the privy council" of the province of Maryland; and, on the same day, as a mark of special favor, because "we have found you very faithful and well-deserving of us upon the occasion and insurrection and rebellion in our said province of Maryland begun and fomented by that notorious and ungrateful villain Richard Ingle," he was commissioned, anew, to be Commander of Kent.

It appears that about this time he had a violent quarrel with Governor Greene, and was charged with letting his tongue, an unruly member, wag too freely. It was "his infirmity," as we shall see hereafter. It was said that he was accustomed to speak of the Governor in a very disrespectful manner, using "scandalizing and upbraiding speeches' 'of him, and taxed him with partiality in the administration of Justice. For this cause Governor Greene by Proclamation, bearing date the 11th of November 1648, revoked all power and command upon the Isle of Kent from Capt. VAUGHAN, and authorized Mr. Philip Conner, one of the Commissioners of said County of the Isle of Kent to take all the steps necessary in such a devolution. By a Commission, also, dated the same day, directed "to Mr. HENRY MORGAN, high sheriff of Kent county," he committed unto him, and added unto his office of high sheriff, the command of all the militia of the said County.

On the 9th December 1648, ROBERT VAUGHAN appeared, at St. Mary's, before the irate Governor, and other persons present, and acknowledged, and confessed, that the charges he had made against the Governor were "foul and rash and altogether false," and "humbly required forgiveness for such his said misdemeanor, expressing sorrow therefor, with purpose of amendment. Whereupon the Governor withdrew his action and pardoned the offence."

Two days after, by Proclamation dated 11th of December 1648, Gov. Greene reappointed Capt. ROBERT VAUGHAN as Commander of the Isle of Kent. with all the power and authority upon the said Island according to his former commission granted unto him from "Leonard Calvert, esq., late Governor, bearing date at Kent, 18th of April 1647." and further "for special reasons him thereunto moving," he suspended all power and authority from all the assistants or Commissioners joined with the said Captaine ROBERT VAUGHAN in the aforesaid commissions of 1647, Mr. PHILIP CONNER, alone, excepted, and in their room constituted and appointed Mr. Nicholas Browne, only, so that Capt. ROBERT VAUGHAN, Mr. PHILIP CONNER and Mr. NICHOLAS BROWNE were to hear and determine all causes upon the said Island, according to the Commission aforementioned. From this circumstance it may be inferred that Capt. VAUGHAN was not the only one who had expressed discontent with the administration of Governor Greene, and that others had not been so quick to ask and receive forgiveness.

In the General Assembly of 1649 the Legislature sat, divided, into two bodies, the Upper and the Lower House. Capt. VAUGHAN being now one of the Council, sat in the Upper House and ably represented Kent County. He had the rare privilege and honor of voting for the ACT CONCERNING RELIGION.

Sec. 2. d. EDWARD COMMINS. He did not long survive. His name does not appear in the list of the Inhabitants, in the year 1652, and I find it stated that, in the year 1653, his widow Elizabeth was, then, the wife of Doct. Thomas Marsh.

SECTION 3. "At a Court held for this Island the 29th day of January 1848.

Present Capt. ROBERT VAUGHAN, Mr. PIHLIP CONNER, Mr. Nicholas BROWNE.

Capt. ROBERT VAUGHAN, Commander of this Island Complaineth against William Laut, planter, for that the said Wm. Laut hath uttered divers reviling, and upbraiding speeches against the person of the said Capt. Vaughan, and his authority, full of insolency, arrogancy, and pride, inciting and animating thereby those people committed to his charge to sedition and rebellion, and the lessening of his power and authority, for which fact of his, the said Capt. Robt. Vaughan requires the said Laut may be censured and punished, as the foulness thereof shall by this Court be found to deserve. Warrant issued.

The Court ordered, that the Defendant should confess himself sorry for his fact committed in open Court and the action to be dismissed." Fol. 12.

John Winchester, of the Isle of Kent, styles himself "Cordwainer."—Ibid.

HENRY MORGAN was sheriff in Jan. 1648.—Ibid Fol. 13.

Sec. 3. a. Mr. NICHOLAS BROWNE, planter, was early distinguished in the history of Kent. At the Assembly, which met at the Fort of St. Mary's, 25th of February 1638-39, he and Mr. Christopher Thomas were the delegates from our county. He was therefore one of the first two presentatives of Kent County. He was therefore o ne of the first two year 1655. Capt. Robert Vaughan and Mr. Henry Morgan were the Overseers (administrators) of his estate.

The following curious document is recorded in "LIBER A. For Transcribing Old-Records." Fols. 77&78. It will enable the Browne family in Kent to trace their connections in England.

"TO ALL that shall see these Presents or hear them to be read, SIR RICHARD CHEVERTON, Knight, LORD MAYOR of the City of LONDON and the Aldermen or Senators of the same City, send greeting KNOW YE that on the day of the date hereof there appeared and personally came into the Court, holden before us, in the Chamber of the Guild-hall of the said City, Henry Hide of the Parish of Bennett Pauls Warfe London, Waterman aged sixty six years or thereabouts and Henry Bick of the parish of Saint Andrew in the Wardrobe London, Waterman aged fifty four years or thereabouts, being persons well Known and Worthy of good Creditt, who upon their Oaths upon the Holy Evangelists of Almighty God before us then and there, solemnly taken and made, did say, depose and testifie for undoubted truth that they have known and been familiarly acquainted with Robert Browne of the Parish of Margaritts in Westminster in the County of Midd., Waterman, for the space of thirty years or mor,e now last past, an ddid likewise well know and were familiarly acquainted with one Nicholas Browne (who about twenty four years since went hence into Virginia) and (as they hear) is there lately deceased, for divers years before his departure out of England, and that the said Robert and Nicholas did own each other for Brothers and were so taken and reputed, by and amongst all their acquaintance and further these Deponents did know the Mother of the said Robert and Nicholas Browne who came out of Wiltshire to live in the said parish of Bennetts about two years before the said Departure of Nicholas Browne for Virginia and afterwards died and was buryed in the Church Yard of the said Parish, so that the Deponents do undoubtedly believe the said Robert Brown to be the Naturall and Lawfill Brother of the said Nicholas Brown, deceased IN WITNESS whereof we the said Lord Mayor and Alderman or Senators of the said City of London have caused the seal of the Office of the Mayoralty of the said City to be putt to these presents, Dated at London the twenty-seventh day of August in the year of our Lord one thousand six hundred fifty and eight.

* * * * * * *

This certificate was read in Court and Ordered to be putt on Record.

Teste me. JOHN COURSEY, Clk.
Fol. 52, Lib. B.

State of Maryland, Kent County, Sct:

I hereby certify that the aforegoing is a true and correct extract, taken from Liber A. No. 1, folios 77-78, a Land record book of Kent County aforesaid.

SEAL In testimony whereof I hereunto set my hand and affix the seal of the Circuit Court for Kent County, on this eighth day of April in the year of our Lord eighteen hundred and seventy-five.

D. C. BLACKISTON, Clerk.

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FURROWS

BY JOSIAH ALLEN WEATHERBY

A feller passed my house not many days ago drivin a car and he had a tag on the car that said "Buy American." There is a lot of newspapers in this country that has adopted that as a slogan, and a lot of people believin ni it. Slogans has been populad in this country ever since the late war and a good mnay people in the country has to be influenced by a slogan before they take side on a question. The American people is the most slogan beridden people in the world. It don't take much urgin to git a slogan started and once it gits goin it travels like wild fire.

Now, there is always two sides to every question, and there is two sides ot this "Buy American" question. In the first place if we Buy American we will have to sell American. If the farmers of this country have to sell American some farmers will have to quit business because we produce more on the farms of this country than we can use. About half of our cotton crop is sold to foreigners. Well, if we have to sell American about half of the cotton farmers will have to quit. Them cotton farmers wouldn't find any consolation in turnin to wheat because crop, and so it goes on around the circle of farm products.

I ain't advocating that we take the slogan "Buy foreign." I'm just sayin that we can't afford to be one-sided i nour commercial relationes if we expect to git along commercially. It's sort of like tryin to git everybody to buy everything they use in the home town. That is a narrow ploicy to follow and sooner or later leads us into absurdities. We can't live to ourselves alone and not have dealins with other people. Such a policy is like tryin to lift ourselves by our boot straps.

In the second place, we ought to lowin them regardless of their consequences. Slogans most always does more harm than good. They appeal to people's prejudices and create bad feelins. If I read the papers aright we, as a people, has got more enemies than any other nation on the earth. It's a lot better to have friends than enemies. To flaunt a "Buy American" slogan in the face of other nations is not calculated to make us any friends.

Good will among nations is a lot better than ill-will and it loosk like most everything we do in this country along these lines makes us a lot more enemies. Our President is tryin to make friends with other nations for us and ti looks to me like a piece of foolishness to wave a red flag in the face of th erest of the world just when he is gittin started on the job of develop-in good will among nations.

It's all right to Buy American when it is to our best advantage to do so, but there ain't no need to go around braggin about it. That invites other nations to retaliate. And if they do that we become the victims of our own folly. And that proves the old sayin that he who makes the folly is the fool.

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If this bile is not flowing freely, your food doesn't digest. It just decays in the bowels. Gas bloats up your stomach. You have a thick, bad taste and your breath is foul, skin often breaks out in blemishes. Your head aches and you feel down and out. Your whole system is poisoned.

It takes those good old CARTER'S LITTLE LIVER PILLS to get these two pounds of bile flowing freely and make you feel "up and up." They contain wonderful, harmless, gentle vegetable extracts, amazing when it comes to making the bile flow freely.

But don't ask for liver pills. Ask for Carter's Little Liver Pills. Look for the name Carter's Little Liver Pills on the red label. Accept no substitute. 25c at all stores. © 1931, C. M. Co.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

NOTICE is hereby given that the undersigned has obtained from the Orphans' Court for Kent County letters Testamentary on the personal estate of ETHELINE P. HACKETT late of said county, deceased. All persons having claims against said deceased's estate are hereby warned to exhibit the same, with the proper vouchrs thereof, to the undersigned on or before the 1st day of October, 1933, otherwise they may by law be excluded from all benefit of said deceased's personal estate.

All persons indebted to this estate must settle at once.

Given under my hand this 28th day of March, 1933.

SARAH H. HACKETT, Executrix.

Dr W. H. Moyer
CHIROPRACTOR
Chestertown Maryland

STEPHEN R. COLLINS
ATTORNEY AT LAW
Court St., Chestertown, Md.

INSURANCE

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Chestertown, Maryland

NOTICE TO CITY TAXPAYERS

The time limit for the payment of city taxes will expire on April 1 according to law. All taxpayers who have not yet paid their taxes on their real estate, personalty, and automobiles are urged to do so at their earliest convenience. On all taxes unpaid as of January 1, 1933, interest is due from September 1, 1932. The time is approaching when spring and summer work will begin, and in order to make needed improvements and to meet outstanding obligations promptly, it is necessary that all outstanding taxes be paid on or before April 1. Please give this matter your prompt attention.

By order of
THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL.
Thos. D. Bowers, Clerk mr25-2t.

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