

**"A DISCOURSE OF
VIRGINIA", PP. 3-43
(NOT COMPLETE)**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649240470

"A Discourse of Virginia", pp. 3-43 (not complete) by Edward Maria Wingfield

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

www.triestepublishing.com

EDWARD MARIA WINGFIELD

**"A DISCOURSE OF
VIRGINIA", PP. 3-43
(NOT COMPLETE)**

WINGFIELD'S
DISCOURSE OF VIRGINIA,

1607-8.

“A DISCOURSE OF VIRGINIA.”

BY

EDWARD MARIA WINGFIELD,

THE FIRST PRESIDENT OF THE COLONY.

Now first printed from the Original Manuscript in the Lambeth Library.

Edited, with Notes and an Introduction,

BY CHARLES DEANE,

MEMBER OF THE AMERICAN ANTIQUE SOCIETY, AND OF THE MASSACHUSETTS
HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

BOSTON:

PRIVATELY PRINTED.

1860.

FROM AMERICAN ANTIQUARIAN SOCIETY'S TRANSACTIONS, VOL. IV.

One Hundred Copies privately Printed.

BOSTON: PRINTED BY JOHN WILSON AND SON.

WINGFIELD'S DISCOURSE OF VIRGINIA.

INTRODUCTION.

ABOUT three years since, my attention was first directed to this narrative of Wingfield in the Lambeth Library, by the reference made to it in the first volume of the Rev. James S. M. Anderson's "History of the Church of England in the Colonies," &c., first published in London in 1845. In lamenting the lack of definite information concerning the Rev. Robert Hunt, the first minister in the Colony, the author says, "I am thankful, however, to have found in the Lambeth Library a manuscript which throws some light, however faint, upon this latter point. It is marked in the catalogue as 'anonymous'; and the description is so far correct, that its author's name is not formally inscribed upon it. The dedication is not

signed at all; but, perceiving that it was a journal of the earliest proceedings of the Colony, I felt persuaded that it would well repay perusal. Nor was I disappointed; for I found it written by a person of no less importance than Edward Maria Wingfield, — one of those to whom the patent was granted, and who, upon the arrival of the colonists in Virginia, was elected their first President. It contains a minute account of the transactions which chiefly concerned himself, from the time of their first landing in Virginia to his return to England, after he had been deposed from his office. . . . I am not aware that its contents have in any shape been placed before the public" (vol. i. p. 167, second edition, London, 1856). The author, in the preface, expresses his obligation to the Rev. S. R. Maitland, Librarian at Lambeth, for the help which he afforded in deciphering the manuscript.

The application for a copy of this manuscript, which I at once formed the purpose of making, was delayed until within a few months; when one was promptly procured for me through my friend, Mr. H. G. Somerby, of London, who, in a note respecting the original, thus writes: "The journal fills about twenty pages of foolscap paper, and is closely written. Mr. Anderson is wrong in stating that it is marked 'anonymous' in the catalogue. That word refers to another manuscript.

Mr. Wingfield's name is indorsed on the back of the journal." In a note accompanying the copy, he says, "I have carefully compared the copy with the original, and corrected several mistakes made by the copyist; so that you can rely upon the document I send you, *verbatim et literatim*." The indorsement upon the journal, which is in vol. 250 of MSS. pp. 383 *et seq.*, is, "A Discourse of Virginia. Auct. Ed. Ma. Wingfield."

Since the time of Purchas, who probably had seen this narrative (see vol. iv. p. 1706), it appears to have escaped the notice of historical students till the attention of Mr. Anderson was attracted to it. As will be seen, the "Discourse" is written in part, if not chiefly, in defence of the author's course while President of the Colony, and in reply to the charges preferred against him; and was probably drawn up soon after his return to England in May, 1608.

The only original Histories of the Colony at Jamestown, hitherto published, covering the period embraced by this manuscript, are, — First, the one by Capt. John Smith, giving a history of the settlement from the arrival of the colonists in April, 1607, to the sailing of Capt. Nelson in the "Phoenix," June 2, 1608. This may have been sent over by that vessel; as it was printed the same year, in a small quarto of thirty-six pages, in black letter, with the following title: —

"A True Relation of such occurrences and accidents of note as hapned in Virginia since the first planting of that Colony, which is now resident in the south part thereof, till the last returne from thence. Written by Captaine Smith, coronell of the said Colony, to a worshipfull friend of his in England. London, . . . 1608."

It may be mentioned, that the title first issued with this tract, by a mistake of the printer, bore the name of Thomas Watson as the author. With the corrected title was added an explanatory preface. This is the first tract published relating to the Colony at Jamestown.

Second, the description of Virginia by Capt. Smith, entitled —

"A Map of Virginia. With a Description of the Countrey, the Commodities, People, Government, and Religion. Written by Captaine Smith, sometimes Governour of the Countrey. Whereunto is annexed the Proceedings of those Colonies, since their first Departure from England, with the discourses, Orationes, and relations of the Salvages, and the accidents that befell them in all their Journeys and discoveries. Taken faithfully as they were written out of the writings of Doctor Ryssell, Tho. Stedley, Anas Todkill, Jeffra Abot, Richard Wilkin, Will. Phettiplace, Nathaniel Powell, Richard Potts, . . . At Oxford, . . . 1612."

The first part of this tract, purporting to be written by Smith, is, as its title indicates, a topographical de-