

**COLLECTIONS OF THE VIRGINIA  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY. NEW SERIES, VOL.  
VIII: ABSTRACT OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF  
THE VIRGINIA COMPANY OF LONDON  
1619-1624, PREPARED FROM THE RECORDS  
IN THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS. VOL. II**

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**CONWAY ROBINSOM & R. A. BROCK**

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OF THE  
Virginia Historical Society.

*New Series.*

VOL. VIII.

ABSTRACT  
OF THE  
PROCEEDINGS OF THE  
Virginia Company of London,  
1619—1624,

PREPARED FROM THE  
RECORDS IN THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

BY  
CONWAY ROBINSON,

AND EDITED WITH AN  
INTRODUCTION AND NOTES

BY  
R. A. BROCK,  
*Corresponding Secretary and Librarian of the Society.*

VOL. II.



RICHMOND, VIRGINIA,  
PUBLISHED BY THE SOCIETY.  
MDCCCLXXXIX.



ABSTRACT OF PROCEEDINGS  
OF THE  
Virginia Company of London.

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The last proceedings of the Company in one volume are on the 3d of July, 1622; those in the next are on the 17th of the same month.

A motion was made, that forasmuch as Mr. Truelove and his associates intend to proceed in their plantation, being no whit discouraged with this late massacre of the English by the treacherous Indians, are now setting forth a bark called the Truelove of London, of about 46 tuns, to Virginia, they therefore desired the honorable favour of this court to grant them a commission for the said ship and voyage, which the court agreed unto. Upon the humble request of William Sheffield, petitioning for leave to administer upon the goods (that are saved) of his son, Thomas Sheffield,<sup>1</sup> lately slain by the Indians, which goods he desires to preserve for a son of the said Thomas, a child about the age of two years, saved alive in that bloody massacre; for so much as it was supposed this would prove a leading case, and the suit of many others to be relieved in, it was therefore thought fit to refer it to a commissioner to consider what power and authority may be granted to the surviving friends of such as are slain, or shall hereafter decease, to administer upon the goods left unto them, and what course may best be taken for recovery and preservation of all such goods from loss and embezeling to the use and behoof of the true proprietors.

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<sup>1</sup>Thomas Sheffield owned in 1620, 150 acres of land adjoining Coxendale, in Virginia.

Mr. Barkham presented to this court a grant of certain lands passed unto him by Sir George Yeardley, under the seal of the colony, upon condition that he compounded for the same with Opachancano, and procured a confirmation thereof from the Company here within two years after the said grant, for which confirmation he now petitions the court.

Upon which occasion it was taken into consideration how far forth the Governor of Virginia, by a charter heretofore granted unto him by the Company, might grant lands in Virginia; and it was resolved directly that, by the King's letters-patents, no other but the Company here, and that in a quarter-court only, had power to dispose of land in Virginia; neither had they liberty thereby to transmit that power from themselves to any other; and as for the clause which they had granted in their said charter unto the Governor of Virginia touching the disposing of land, it did only intend, as a ministerial officer, to give him power to set out to every man his proper dividend, either by directions from hence, or to such as had acquired it there by service; and therein chiefly to respect the ancient adventurers and planters, with authority also to pass the said grants under the Company's seal, if so they did desire it, but not to make an absolute grant of the said lands; for that the seal in that case was but a certificate or testimony of so much land set out for the considerations aforesaid, to be further ratified and confirmed by the Company here, who only had power to confirm the same unto them; and further than this, the Governor neither had, nor could have, any authority from hence to dispose of any land in Virginia; but this grant of Barkham was held very dishonourable and prejudicial to the Company, in regard it was limited with a proviso to compound with Opachankano, whereby a sovereignty in that heathen infidel was acknowledged, and the Company's title thereby infringed very much. It was also reputed a fraudulent deed unto the grantee, and of purpose only to draw a fee from him, which, by report, is very excessive in that kind, there being no less than 20 lb. weight of tobacco, or £3 in money, demanded by the Secretary there for every such private dividend of 50 or 100 acres passed under the seal of the colony, which this court held to be very unreasonable; and, therefore, for the preservation thereof hereafter, as also to avoid that confusion of granting private dividends in the chiefest places, which many possessed



themselves of, not with an intent to plant upon the said lands so much as to prevent others in their dividents that took patents here without they compounded with them for these parcels that lay intermingled. It was for these reasons thought fit to be referred to the judgment of the next quarter, to consider of some course for a speedy reformation.

July 17th, 1622. Sir Edw. Sackvill being entreated by the former court to acquaint the Lords of his Majesty's Council with the massacre of the English colony in Virginia by the Indians there, and with the present necessity of arms and people to make a reparation, did now report that, with the first opportunity, he had accordingly informed their Lordships; and after some questions passed about some particulars, he entreated their Lordships' mediation to his Majesty in their said suit, which they were pleased to perform, whereof his Majesty being informed as also of the manner of this accident, with great indignation apprehended the cause thereof to be the same that their Lordships did, vizt: That the planters in Virginia attended more their present property than their safety, and pleasing their humours and fancies by living as scatteringly and dispersedly. But his Majesty was so far sensible of the loss of so many of his subjects and of the present estate of the colony, as he was graciously pleased to promise them assistance, and thereupon demanded what the Company desired. It was answered munition and people, whereby they might be enabled to take a just revenge of these treacherous Indians, and to recover what they had now lost, as also to secure themselves against the like, or any foreign enemy that should offer to assault them; whereupon it pleased his Majesty to promise them some such arms out of the tower as was desired, whereof the officers of the tower brought some of each kind and reported their store there to be as followeth:

Brigandines <i>alias</i> Plate coats,	100
Jacks of mail, <sup>3</sup>	40
Jerkins, or shirts of mail,	400
Skulls,	2,000
Calivers, and other pieces bells, Halberts, swords,	—

<sup>3</sup> It is of interest to note that portions of a steel cuirass, exhumed at Jamestown in 1861, in constructing earth works there, are in the collection of the Virginia Historical Society.

Sir Edwin Sandys signified unto the Company that the Company of the Somer Islands, in their great quarter-court, held the 10th day of July last, had consented to the contract intended to be made with his Majesty for the sole importation of tobacco, but with some difference from the Virginia Company touching the medium of the custom thereof, for the Company of the Somer Islands having duly weighed and considered of all circumstances incident thereunto, conceived it would be more convenient and safe for them to pay the custom of 6d.  $\frac{7}{8}$  pound weight for roll tobacco and 4d. for leaf, as it came in, than to be tied to pay the certainty of so great a sum of money as the medium came unto; besides, they considered that the customers having, by this means of granting a medium, their customs made certain, would take no care or pains to discover the stealing in of Spanish tobacco, whereas, in paying the customer, the profit of the customers being also interested therein, it would make them the more vigilant and carefull to prevent the undue bringing in of Spanish tobacco, and thereby also save the Company much charge, which they must otherwise be at for maintaining of a great number of officers for that purpose. Whereupon, it being taken into consideration whether an inferior court had any power to alter that which was so solemnly ratified by a quarter-court, it was resolved not; but withal they held it fit to signify to my Lord Treasurer, and certify, by way of declaration of their particular opinions, that they conceive the Somer Islands Company, for many substantial reasons, had taken the better course, and therefore the Company of Virginia would not oppose the drawing up of the patent according to the desire and resolution of the Somer Islands Company, not doubting but if the next quarter-court for Virginia should not approve thereof, they shall entreat his Lordship their first order may stand.

Sir John Davers,  
Two Deputys,  
Mr. Gibbs,  
Mr. Wrote,  
Mr. Brookes,  
Mr. Herbert,

Mr. John Smith,  
Mr. Jermyn  
Mr. Ro. Smith,  
Mr. Byng,  
Mr. White,  
Mr. Seldon,

or any four of them, are entreated to meet and advise about the drawing up of the patent touching the contract to be made with

his Majesty for the sole transportation of tobacco according to the propositions agreed on by the Companys of Virginia and the Somer Islands in their great quarter-court held this present month, which is to be done in the most beneficial manner for the behoof of both Companies, who are likewise desired to attend Mr. Attorney about the same; and also to take into their consideration those things that are to be performed before the said contract is to be in force, as, namely, the prohib[*it*]ing the planting of tobacco in England and Ireland; also to prohibit the importing of any Spanish tobacco more than the quantity limited by this contract.

August 14, 1622. Whereas his Majesty hath been pleased at the humble suit of the Virginia Company to lend unto them 20 barrels of powder for the service of the colony in Virginia, to be repaid by the 10th of January next, for which security is to be given under the Company's seal, the court entreated Mr. Deputy to draw up the said security and to affix the Company's seal thereunto.

And whereas it was further signified that they were in hand with a bargain for 20 barrels of powder more for time upon the like caution, the court gave order to Mr. Deputy that if that bargain proceeded, to affix the seal unto the like security for repayment at the time agreed upon.

A request was made by some of the Somer Islands Company for the better supplying of the Somer Islands with arms (whereof there was now very great want), this Company would be pleased to give them 100 pieces and 50 brown bells out of his Majesty's princely gift and bounty bestowed upon this Company, which number the Somer Islands Company promise to maintain. The court taking it into their consideration, and weighing duly how much it doth import Virginia to support this plantation in regard of the vicinity and mutual dependence the one hath upon the other, have agreed to grant their request, not doubting but his Majesty and the State will be pleased therewith, considering upon what special and important reasons the Company were moved hereunto, and further it was agreed and thought fit that the bows and arrows which his Majesty had given to the Virginia Company (in respect the use and scattering of them amongst the Indians might prove a thing dangerous to our own people, and withal make them acquainted with the manner of fashioning the arrow heads),