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The Richard Corbin letterbook 1758-1760

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Corbin, Richard
THE RICHARD CORBIN LETTERBOOK
1758--1760

A Thesis
Presented to
The Faculty of the Department of History
The College of William and Mary in Virginia

In Partial Fulfillment
Of the Requirements for the Degree of
Master of Arts

by
Jeffrey L. Scheib
1982
APPROVAL SHEET

This thesis is submitted in partial fulfillment of
the requirements for the degree of

Master of Arts

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ABSTRACT

The purpose of this thesis is to provide an annotated, edited transcript of the letterbook of Richard Corbin of "Laneville," King and Queen County, Virginia, colonial councillor and deputy receiver general, for the years 1758 through 1760, along with a sketch of Corbin's life and career.

The project was limited to the first three years of the letterbook because of time and size considerations (the complete letterbook is approximately three hundred pages long) and because of the content of the letters Corbin wrote from 1758 through 1760. After 1760 Corbin's letters focus largely on his work as deputy receiver general, and because of this they have been used by economic historians. The earlier letters contain more general material, including invoices of goods ordered from England and instructions to Corbin's estate manager, as well as Corbin's dealings with his tobacco merchants and his reports as trustee for his friend Robert Dinwiddie and his cousin Edmund Jenings. The editor hopes this thesis will make this hitherto neglected material more readily available to students of the period.

A biographical sketch of Corbin provides a background for the letters transcribed here. Although highly placed as a councillor and deputy receiver general and acquainted with or related to most prominent Virginians of the pre-Revolutionary era, Corbin is a largely neglected figure. No complete biography of him exists. A surprising amount of information about Corbin can be culled from published materials and secondary sources, although this information is widely scattered. The editor has attempted to pull this material together to form a useful summary of Corbin's life and career.
THE RICHARD CORBIN LETTERBOOK

1758--1760
A BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH
OF
RICHARD CORBIN OF "LANEVILLE"
c. 1708-1790

The life and career of Richard Corbin of "Laneville," King and Queen County, Virginia, corresponded so well to the image of the aristocrat of the Golden Age of the Chesapeake as to be almost stereotypical. A third-generation Virginian, Corbin was born into the ruling elite in the early years of the eighteenth century. He attended the College of William and Mary. He served on his parish vestry and his county court. He sat in the House of Burgesses and was appointed to the governor's council. He married a daughter of a distinguished aristocratic family. He saw his sons follow him into public life. He knew or was related to everybody who was anybody in eighteenth-century Virginia--Jeningses, Lees, Ludwells, Byrds, and Carters were numbered among his acquaintances and zealously cultivated cousinry.¹

What distinguished Corbin from the stereotype and from many of his fellow aristocrats was his consistent adherence to the British, as opposed to the Virginian, viewpoint in the quarter-century preceding the American Revolution. In the pistole fee dispute of the Dinwiddie administration Corbin supported the governor. In the currency controversy of the 1750s and 1760s he supported the hard money-creditor interest of British merchants. He was horrified by the Stamp Act upheaval and wrote, "The interest of Great Britain and her colonys are to be
inseparably connected; what hurts the one must be injurious to the other." At the outbreak of the Revolution he became a loyalist, although even in his loyalism there is an element of typicality. In common with most of the governor's councillors, he was allowed to retire from public life and remain in Virginia, relatively unmolested, his property undisturbed, throughout the Revolution.

The reason for Corbin's adherence to the unpopular British view lay in his strong identification with England. Corbin considered himself a colonial Englishman; England remained "home." Corbin's economic ties strengthened his identification with the imperial interest. As his letterbook shows, Corbin was a regular correspondent of several British firms trading in Virginia, including the Hanburys and Robert Cary, to whom he sent his tobacco on a consignment basis. Also, Corbin was debt collector for his good friend Governor Robert Dinwiddie. Finally, he was a royal official, not only a councillor but also, after 1762, deputy receiver general and collector of the king's quitrents. He took his duties as a Crown officer very seriously, as he took all business matters, performing them meticulously and scrupulously. Ultimately, however, his allegiance to the Crown yielded to a practical acceptance of the new order of Revolutionary Virginia. While two of his sons fled the commonwealth during the Revolution, Corbin remained in Virginia, thus safeguarding extensive properties built up in the colony over three generations.

By the time of Richard Corbin's birth, the Corbin family had been established in the colony for over fifty years. Like most of the great eighteenth-century families, the Corbins had their foundation in the immigration from the 1640s to the 1670s, which absorbed and supplanted
the earlier ruling elite in Virginia. The patriarch of the family in America was Richard's grandfather, Henry Corbin, who was born at Hall End, Warwickshire, in 1629 and settled on the Rappahannock River in 1654. Henry married Alice Eltonhead (?-1685), the widow of Rowland Burnham of Lancaster County. They had eight children.

Henry rose swiftly in the colonial elite. In 1657 he was appointed a justice of the peace for Lancaster County. In 1659 and again in 1660 his neighbors elected him to the House of Burgesses. In 1663, a scant nine years after his arrival in Virginia, Henry was named to the governor's council. Meanwhile, Henry also served as vestryman of Lancaster Parish. Later, the first Upper Chapel of Christ Church Parish was built on Henry Corbin's "Buckingham" plantation prior to 1669, when a private pew for the Corbins was built in the chancel. Some of the chapel's communion silver reportedly bore the Corbin name and coat of arms.

Henry laid the foundation for the family's future by accumulating substantial landholdings in the colony. At his death January 8, 1676, Henry possessed two plantations in Middlesex County, "Buckingham" (also known as "Buckingham House" and "Buckingham Lodge") and "Corbin Hall," and one estate, "Peckatone," in Westmoreland County. He also held land in Stafford County.

In accordance with the terms of Henry's will, his sons Thomas and Gawin (who became Richard's father), aged eight and seven, respectively, were sent to England to their uncles Thomas and Gawin. The boys arrived at the ancestral home in Warwickshire August 20, 1676. At the beginning of September the youngsters were sent to live with their grandmother Corbin.
It is uncertain when Gawin Corbin returned to Virginia. By 1698 he was residing in Middlesex County, probably at "Buckingham." That year he was a justice of the peace for Middlesex, sat in the House of Burgesses for the county, and commanded a fifty-man troop in the Middlesex militia. Gawin sat as burgess for Middlesex in 1699, 1700, 1703-1705, 1718, 1720-1722, and 1742. He represented King and Queen County in 1715 and again in 1736-1740. He was named first in the commission of justices for King and Queen County on at least two occasions, in 1723 and in 1735. In 1703 he was made commander of the Middlesex County militia.\footnote{11}

Unlike his father, Gawin never attained that pinnacle of success, appointment to the Council of State. In 1703 he was recommended, probably by Governor Francis Nicholson, for a seat on the council should a vacancy occur.\footnote{12} However, Gawin was never appointed, possibly because he ran afoul of Governor Alexander Spotswood, who dubbed him "the most obnoxious man in the colonies."\footnote{13}

Gawin earned the epithet as a result of a quarrel with Spotswood over the merchantman Robinson Frigate of London. In 1711 Gawin, as naval officer for the Rappahannock River, cleared the Frigate to sail for England. Spotswood subsequently asserted that Corbin had cleared the vessel without the governor's knowledge, causing Spotswood to miss the opportunity to send his reports home to London in the ship. Gawin countered that Spotswood had given him oral permission to clear the ship. The governor had the Frigate stopped off the Virginia capes in order to send his dispatches home. It was then discovered that someone had tampered with the vessel's royal license to sail without convoy. Spotswood dismissed Corbin from office for failing to detect the alteration in the license. Gawin responded by petitioning the Privy Council
to be restored to the position of naval officer. The council referred the matter to the Lords Commissioners of Trade and Plantations, who did nothing about it. Gawin never got the position back, having earned nothing but the Governor's opprobrium for his pains.  

The governor's opinion of Gawin was probably not widely shared; no one as obnoxious as Spotswood felt Corbin was could marry three times, as Gawin did. His first spouse was Katherine Wormeley (1679-ca. 1707), the daughter of Ralph Wormeley of "Rosegill." Probably shortly after Katherine's death he married Jane Lane (?-post 1715), the daughter of Captain John Lane of King and Queen County and the widow of Willis Wilson. Gawin and Jane had three children, Richard, John, and Ann. After Jane's death Gawin married Martha Bassett (1694-1738), the daughter of Colonel William Bassett of "Eltham," New Kent County. Gawin and Martha had a son, Gawin, and a daughter, Joanna, who married Colonel Robert Tucker of Norfolk.

Like his father before him, Gawin extended the family landholdings. In 1725 he patented 13,500 acres in Spotsylvania County. A year later he patented three thousand acres more in Spotsylvania adjacent to the first tract. When he died in 1744, Gawin owned real estate in nine Virginia counties plus at least five lots and two houses in Williamsburg.

Precisely when Richard Corbin, eldest son of Gawin Corbin, was born is uncertain. The year of his birth is variously given as 1708 and 1714. Quite likely he was born and raised at "Buckingham," the old family estate in Middlesex County. When he attended the College of William and Mary sometime after 1720, he was identified as residing in Middlesex County.
Charles S. Sydnor has noted that the first step up in the political career of an eighteenth-century Virginia gentleman was normally a seat on the county bench as justice of the peace; the next step was a seat in the House of Burgesses. Richard Corbin began to follow this path as early as 1735, when he was added to the commission of the peace for Middlesex County. When a new commission for Middlesex was issued in December 1738, it was ordered in particular that "Mr. Richard Corbin be ranked next after Mr. Ralph Wormely in the quoram. . . ." In 1745 Corbin was appointed a justice of the peace for King and Queen County. That commission ordered that "Richard Corbin Gent. be put in his former place." Apparently Corbin had previously served as a justice for King and Queen and had for some reason been dropped from the commission or else resigned from the bench.

Having embarked on his political career in 1735, Corbin did not take the next step up for thirteen years. Finally he entered the House of Burgesses in the session of 1748-1749, when he was returned as burgess for Middlesex County, his father's first constituency. Curiously enough, in light of his later career, he was elected to fill a vacancy created when Philip Grymes accepted the position of deputy receiver general.

After serving only one term in the House of Burgesses, Richard Corbin was appointed to the governor's council, filling a vacancy left by the death of John Robinson. Undoubtedly Corbin secured his appointment through family connections. When John Robinson, president of the council, died in September, 1749, he had been acting governor since the departure of Sir William Gooch in June of that year. On Robinson's death the acting governorship devolved upon Thomas Lee, the senior
councillor. Thomas Lee was Richard Corbin's cousin. Corbin's father-in-law John Tayloe (who was also a cousin) also sat on the council. In any event, on January 17, 1750, the King in Council ordered a warrant prepared naming Richard Corbin to the Virginia council. The warrant, dated January 19, was read before the council in Williamsburg May 7. Corbin took the oath of office and was admitted to his Majesty's Council of State for Virginia.²¹

When the new lieutenant governor, Robert Dinwiddie, arrived in Virginia late in 1751, Corbin and the other councillors again took the oath of office. Corbin became good friends with the executive. It was probably Dinwiddie who appointed him county lieutenant of Essex, apparently sometime in 1752. Certainly Corbin, now entitled to the rank of colonel, was county lieutenant by April 1753, when he submitted a list of officers and soldiers under his command in Essex County.²²

While Richard Corbin served his country as justice of the peace, burgess, and councillor, he also served his God as vestryman of Stratton Major Parish in King and Queen County. Corbin was appointed to the vestry in 1745, the same year that he was reappointed a justice of the peace for King and Queen. The vestry chose him to fill the position vacated by the death of his father, Gawin, who had served on the Stratton Major vestry since at least 1729. Corbin took his oath as vestryman December 2, 1745.²³ He had not been on the vestry a full year when on October 13, 1746, he was appointed churchwarden for the ensuing year. One of the duties of the churchwarden was to provide the bread and wine for Holy Communion. Corbin and his fellow churchwarden Richard Anderson were each reimbursed 240 pounds of tobacco by the parish for providing the Sacrament four times in 1747. Corbin was churchwarden four more
times, in 1753, 1760, 1766 (when the cost of providing for four communions rose to 360 pounds of tobacco), and 1771. In addition, Corbin seems to have acted as secretary of the vestry in 1768; he signed the minutes of all the meetings held that year.

Richard Corbin was generous to his church. In 1746 he provided two surplices for the use of the parish; in 1764 he donated an altar cloth, pulpit and lectern paraments, and two more surplices; finally, in 1772, he offered to provide free of charge the bread and wine needed for the Holy Sacrament. Corbin's father had given the parish a marble baptismal font in 1730; the son outdid the father in 1760 by providing land for a new church. On February 27 of that year the vestry agreed "that a church should be built on some part of the old field belonging to the Hon. Richard Corbin, Esq., call'd Goliah's. . . ." Corbin's generosity was not limitless, however. He does not seem to have deeded the land to the parish, and the designation of the tract as an "old field" doubtless indicates that it was a worn-out tobacco field probably worth little to Corbin anyway.

The new church was built at a cost to the parish of £1,300. When it was finished it was one of the largest houses of worship in the colony, measuring eighty feet long by fifty feet wide. The vestry book contains an allotment of pews in the church made December 11, 1767. The Corbin family was assigned pew number eleven on the north side of the church. The Corbins were one of only four families in the parish to be allotted a private pew, one of the other three being the family of the rector, Commissary William Robinson. The Corbin pew must have been in the chancel, as it was located farther east in the building than the
pulpit, which stood along the south wall opposite north pew number seven. 28

In 1767 Corbin offered to give the parish title to fifty acres of land on which to erect a poor house. The vestry may not have taken him up on the offer because four years later they appointed a committee to find a "convenient and agreeable" location for a poor house. 29 Richard Corbin's name last appears on the list of vestrymen December 21, 1775, when he kept the minutes of the meeting. The outbreak of the Revolution must have played havoc with Stratton Major Parish. After the vestry meeting of December 21, 1775, the board did not meet again until October 14, 1777. In the meantime, the General Assembly dissolved the vestry because of "such divisions among the vestry of the said parish... that the affairs of the said parish have been for some time neglected." The parish communion silver was probably placed in Richard Corbin's custody for safekeeping. In 1779 the vestry instructed the churchwardens to "apply to Col. Richard Corban [sic] for the plate belonging to the church." 30

As a councillor and later as receiver general, Corbin had a knack for supporting unpopular political positions. He began by supporting Governor Dinwiddie in the pistole fee controversy in the early 1750s. Dinwiddie asked for a fee of one pistole for affixing his seal and signature to land patents. In April of 1752 Corbin and his fellow councillors assented to the governor's request for the fee. Dinwiddie wrote to London, "The council here... unanimously agreed that such a fee was just and reasonable, and therefore gave their opinion that a pistole for affixing the seal and signing each patent for land was very
reasonable." The governor added, "This fee is much less than the neighboring governors charge. . . ."

Before he left London Dinwiddie had asked the Board of Trade for its approval in demanding the fee. The House of Burgesses did not care whether the board approved or not. Led by Speaker John Robinson and the Reverend William Stith, the burgesses considered the governor's request for the fee a dangerous innovation. Undaunted by the opinion of Sir Dudley Ryder, lord chief justice of King's Bench, that the governor did not need the assembly's approval to impose the fee, the burgesses were determined that Dinwiddie should not have his pistole. The actions of Corbin and the other councillors, which included petitioning the Crown on the matter, were directly contrary to the view of Speaker Robinson and the lower house.

Richard Corbin had a hand in the events in Virginia preceding the Great War for Empire. On October 27, 1753, Corbin, William Fairfax, and Philip Ludwell were appointed a committee to write the letter which George Washington carried to the French warning them off British territory in the Ohio Valley. The three councillors also wrote Washington's commission, passport, and instructions, which were delivered to him at a meeting of the council October 31. Corbin had a thorough appreciation for the difficulties of frontier warfare. He wrote to his son, "I believe if the wisest general the world ever saw was to command an army in the desarts of America, where he did not know or could procure a good geography of the country, he woud hardly prove successful against an enimy who had this knowledge."

The following year, when Virginia raised a regiment for service against the French, the young Washington sought Richard Corbin's
assistance in securing a commission in the regiment. Apparently sometime in February 1754, Corbin and Washington met at "Green Spring," the Ludwell estate near Jamestown. In the course of their conversation Corbin seems to have suggested that Washington might be "ranked among the chief officers of the expedition." Washington wrote to Corbin early in March 1754, mentioning their conversation at "Green Spring" and asking the councillor to put in a good word for him as lieutenant colonel of the regiment. Supposedly, Corbin sent Washington the desired commission with this note:

Dear George:

I enclose you your commission. God prosper you with it.

Your friend,

Richard Corbin

Washington's letter of March 1754 and Corbin's supposed reply were published with Corbin genealogical material in the Virginia Magazine of History and Biography in 1921. Washington's letter also appears in three editions of the first president's papers, by Jared Sparks, by Worthington C. Ford, and by John C. Fitzpatrick. Corbin's ostensible reply is a palpable fraud because all three editors, Sparks, Ford, and Fitzpatrick, also include a letter written by Washington to Governor Dinwiddie, dated at Alexandria, March 20, 1754, in part acknowledging receipt of his lieutenant colonel's commission directly from Dinwiddie. There is no mention of Richard Corbin. Moreover, a comparison with the letters preserved in Corbin's letterbook reveals that the salutation and the closing of the alleged Corbin reply do not fit Richard Corbin's usual letter style.
The Corbin reply first appeared in the second edition of John Marshall's biography of Washington. Indeed, Jared Sparks cited Marshall's biography as his source for both Washington's letter and the Corbin answer. According to John Marshall, he received both of the letters from Richard Corbin's son, Francis. Francis Corbin seems a likely culprit in concocting a forged letter making his father a benefactor of Washington. In 1815 Francis Corbin wrote a letter to Tench Coxe in which he quoted Washington as having called Richard Corbin "one of the best friends I have ever had." Francis also wrote that Benjamin Franklin had called Corbin "one of the wisest men we had," and that George III had called him "the best subject I ever had in America." There is no evidence to substantiate these claims. Perhaps Francis suffered from feelings of inferiority because of his father's loyalism and sought to compensate by fabricating specious connections for him on both sides of the Anglo-American conflict. There is no reason, however, to doubt the authenticity of Washington's letter to Corbin.

At any rate, Corbin and young Washington apparently were acquainted and on amicable terms before the Seven Years War began. Their friendship may not have survived the conflict. In the fall of 1757 Washington heard a story that Corbin had accused him of fabricating rumors of Indian attacks to frighten the House of Burgesses into voting him more troops and money. Because of this Governor Dinwiddie was alleged to have turned hostile to Washington. The governor denied that he had turned against Washington; he also defended Corbin, expressing the belief that Corbin could not have been guilty of the slander. Dinwiddie advised Washington "not to give credit to ev'ry idle story you hear."
Throughout the 1750s and 1760s, first as councillor and then as receiver general, Richard Corbin was deeply concerned with the currency question. Throughout he remained a hard money man, firmly against large emissions of inadequately backed paper money which he believed drove exchange rates to exorbitant heights. Virginia was a country perpetually short of currency. Corbin's position was again the unpopular one; it flew directly in the face of Speaker Robinson and the House of Burgesses, as it had in the pistole fee controversy.

As early as 1755, when the House of Burgesses voted that protested bills of exchange could be collected at face value plus ten percent for damages, Corbin began speaking out against paper money. That same year the burgesses voted to allow sterling debts to be collected in paper currency at a "just" rate of exchange. At this British merchants trading in Virginia took alarm, fearful of losing money on their investments. The merchants wanted protection for their sterling debts. The Board of Trade agreed with the merchants but never took the matter to Parliament. In 1757 the House of Burgesses voted to cut its war expenses by replacing £100,000 of current, interest-bearing treasury notes redeemable in 1761 with £100,000 of interest-free notes redeemable in 1765 plus an additional £80,000 for the war chest. Corbin considered the exchange of notes to be cheating the public and led half the council in opposing the bill. His friend Governor Dinwiddie was reluctant to sign the act. The council at first voted the bill down, but an identical bill passed when its opponents temporarily lost the majority—one of their number left the council chamber for a moment—and Dinwiddie was forced to sign it under pressure of military necessity.
When Corbin lost that fight in the Virginia council, he transferred the campaign to England. Under Corbin's direction, merchants from London and Bristol petitioned the Crown in June 1758 against the 1757 law and against another Virginia law of 1749 which allowed sterling debts settled in court to be paid in paper of uncertain value. Eventually, in January 1759, the Lords of Trade directed the Virginia House of Burgesses to enact legislation providing that sterling debts be discharged in sterling and debts payable in paper be paid at the current exchange rate.

In 1762 Richard Corbin again spoke out against paper money. He explained to Edward Athawes:

> Upon the constant opposition I have made not merely to paper money but to the principles upon which it is established as inconsistent with credit and the trading interest, I desired some advocate of this establishment to suggest their reasons in writing, that I was always open to conviction, and upon hearing convincing reasons all opposition from my part should cease.

Corbin's gauntlet was taken up by Francis Fauquier, Dinwiddie's successor as lieutenant governor. Fauquier undertook to explain the position of the paper money men in a signed article in the *Virginia Gazette* titled "Some Considerations upon the Rise and Fall of Exchange as Applicable to the Present Circumstances of this Colony." Corbin wrote an unsigned reply with an equally windy title.

That same year Corbin joined William Nelson, Thomas Nelson, and Philip Ludwell Lee in voting against a bill to raise a thousand troops and issue £30,000 in paper as just an excuse to issue more legal tender paper. By 1762 Corbin had a vested interest in hard money and low exchange rates. That July he received a letter from Receiver General
John Roberts authorizing him to act as deputy receiver general and collector of the king's quitrents. After he became receiver general Corbin asked the council to make the quitrents payable in paper currency at the market exchange rate. The quitrent of two shillings per hundred acres was legally payable in sterling, but because of the scarcity of cash in the colony the rents had come to be paid in paper at the legal exchange rate of 125. In 1762 the market exchange rate was close to 160, so that the king was losing revenue—and so was Richard Corbin, who received a commission on his collection. The council referred the receiver general to the Lords of the Treasury in London. Accordingly, he petitioned the Lords of the Treasury, calling for parliamentary regulation of currency. In August 1762 he wrote to Robert Cary, "It is the interposition of Parliament alone can put a stop to this growing boil, and without they do, it is impossible to foresee where it will end." To John Roberts, who transmitted his petition to the Treasury, Corbin expressed the opinion that paper money should only be emitted in emergencies, and then only in limited quantities redeemable in a specified number of years by good and sufficient funds.

Since the House of Burgesses would make no changes in the money situation, as a remedy for Virginia's currency ills Corbin advocated extension to the Old Dominion of a parliamentary act of 1751 regulating paper currency in New England. He was gratified in 1764 when Parliament passed a currency act prohibiting paper money in all the colonies south of New England. He wrote joyfully to Edward Athawes, "The act of Parliament restraining any future emissions of paper but on just, true principles is by me considered as the Palladium of Virginia's credit."
However, his joy was short-lived. By 1766 he was again complaining of the loss of revenue to the king (and undoubtedly also to himself) because of high exchange rates.45

Corbin took his position as deputy receiver general very seriously. His was a thankless task, and not a very lucrative one at that. At the time Corbin became deputy receiver general, Governor Fauquier estimated that the profits from the office over the previous eleven years had averaged no more than £650. After deducting payments of £500 to Receiver General John Roberts, who held the post as a sinecure in England, and £50 to the clerk of the office, the deputy was left with only £100 profit. Corbin himself wrote that the job was not worth his time and trouble. Yet he undertook the position, perhaps attracted by the prestige of the Crown appointment. He wrote that he hoped to improve the revenue from the office by pressing the county sheriffs, who collected the quitrents, to be more exact; in the past they had been "shamefully faulty." Still, Corbin's profit for 1762 was no more than £150, if that much. A year later his profit was £194 2s 1d, a small improvement. He frequently found it necessary to go to court in order to collect the money owed to the Crown. Sheriffs were sometimes years behind in payment. Corbin found himself caught between recalcitrant colonists and demanding British officials. He wrote to Ralph Wormeley, "Believe me, sir, there is a very large ballance due from me to the Crown, and the threatening manner in which I am urged to remit it has allarm'd me for some time." Yet despite the frustrations, Corbin held stubbornly to his duties until after the outbreak of the Revolution.46

During these years of public activity Richard Corbin led a thoroughly active private life as well. He had large landholdings to
manage, tobacco to sell through English agents on a consignment basis, and a large family to raise and provide for. Additionally, he acted as executor and trustee for friends and relatives in England and America. He was also interested in land speculation.

In July 1737 Richard Corbin married Elizabeth ("Betty") Tayloe (1721-1784), the daughter of his cousin and later fellow councillor John Tayloe of "Mount Airy," Richmond County. Their marriage was announced in the Virginia Gazette of July 29, 1737, where Betty was described as "a young lady of great beauty, and fortune." This description was more than mere fulsome flattery. A portrait identified as Betty Tayloe Corbin was published in the Virginia Magazine of History and Biography in 1921; this portrait shows a handsome young woman with a small, full-lipped mouth, large doe eyes, and a high, intelligent forehead—a fine catch for the bridegroom. Equally attractive was her dowry of £2,000 sterling. 47

Richard was more than capable of supporting a wife without Betty's dowry. Before Richard's marriage, Gawin Corbin had given him all his land in King and Queen and Middlesex counties, six thousand acres of Gawin's Spotsylvania patent, "Moss Neck" plantation in Caroline County, "Nimcock" in Essex County, and at least fifty slaves. Gawin confirmed the gift in his will. Where the newlyweds set up housekeeping is uncertain. Their eldest son was reportedly born at "Corbin Hall" in Middlesex. The Corbins are said to have lived in Middlesex through 1746, moving to "Laneville," King and Queen County, sometime between then and 1749. However, Richard was named to the Stratton Major vestry in 1745, and it seems reasonable to assume that he was then resident in the parish. 48 Richard and Betty had eight children, five sons and three
daughters: Gawin (ca. 1740-1779); John Tayloe (ca. 1746-1794); Richard (1750-post 1787); Thomas (ca. 1753?-post 1783); Francis (1759-1821); Elizabeth (ca. 1740-post 1798), who married Carter Braxton; Alice (early 1740s?-post 1783); and Letitia (?-post 1783).49

Richard Corbin was solicitous of his children's education. In 1766 he wrote to his merchants in England entreating them to find a qualified tutor and to send him to Virginia post haste. At least two of the boys were educated in England. Gawin, the eldest, was sent to school at Grinstead, Essex, under a Mr. Harris. He was admitted pensioner of Christ's College, Cambridge, under a Mr. Barker, January 26, 1756. He remained at the university three years. Shortly after enrolling at Cambridge, Gawin was admitted to the Middle Temple. He was called to the bar January 23, 1761. Francis, the youngest, was sent to school at Canterbury in 1773. He also spent time at Cambridge and was admitted to the Inner Temple January 23, 1777.50

Gawin completed his studies in England and arrived home in Virginia in August 1761. He apparently took up residence at "Buckingham" in Middlesex. In 1762 he married his cousin Joanna Tucker, the daughter of his father's half-sister Joanna Corbin Tucker and Col. Robert Tucker of Norfolk. He soon entered politics, sitting as burgess for Middlesex, the old family bailiwick, in 1764-1765, 1766-1768, and 1769-1771. In 1767 Governor Fauquier commissioned him a lieutenant in the Middlesex militia. He was a justice of the peace for Middlesex in 1768, and in 1775, doubtless to his father's great pride (and probably with his father's influence), he was appointed to the governor's council, the last man to take his seat at the council board before the Revolution. Gawin died July 19, 1779, leaving his widow and six children.51
John Tayloe, the second son, apparently resided at "Laneville," his father's seat in King and Queen County, for nearly all his adult life. He entered the House of Burgesses for King and Queen in 1769, retaining his seat in the house through 1774. That year he represented his home county in the first Virginia Convention. John Tayloe was chosen a vestryman of Stratton Major Parish in 1771 and churchwarden the next year. In 1771 he married Mary Waller of Williamsburg, the daughter of Benjamin Waller. Their marriage was commemorated by a twenty-line poem in Rind's *Virginia Gazette* depicting Mary as the Queen of Love, a-tremble with maidenly fear as she awaited John Tayloe, described as a Classical hero "fill'd with honor, love, and truth," at Hymen's altar. They had eight children. When the Revolution began John Tayloe remained loyal to the Crown. In October 1775 he wrote to a friend in Urbanna a letter which supposedly contained "sentiments inimical to America." The letter came to the attention of the Committee of Safety of King and Queen County, which briefly detained John Tayloe and then sent the letter on to the Virginia Convention. In Williamsburg with his father, John Tayloe was arrested again, this time by order of the convention, which decided to confine him to Caroline County between the Pamunkey and Mattaponi rivers and required him to post a bond of £10,000.52

Thomas and Richard were more active in their loyalty than their brother John Tayloe or their father. Thomas was ordered disarmed by the King and Queen County Committee of Safety June 14, 1776, because he refused to take the oath prescribed by the convention. According to his father, Thomas received a passport from Governor Patrick Henry to go to Europe. He sailed from Baltimore, but his ship was intercepted by a British man-of-war, and he was taken first to New York and then to
England. He may have served in the British army. In 1778 Thomas and Richard, along with John Randolph, the former attorney general of Virginia, signed a petition to Lord George Germain offering their services to the Crown in the event England were invaded. Thomas returned home to Virginia in 1783; his father wrote to Governor Benjamin Harrison to request permission for Thomas to remain in the state until an opportunity arose for him to go to Jamaica, where the old man intended to set him up in business. Instead, he must have returned to England, as Ralph Wormeley, Jr. of "Rosegill" wrote a letter to Charles James Fox, dated August 8, 1783, in which he mentions that the letter would be hand-delivered by Thomas Corbin. 53

Knowledge of Richard's experiences as a loyalist comes from the claims he filed with the British government for compensation for property lost in the war. 54 Richard asked for compensation for the loss of "Moss Neck" and "Richland," plantations in Caroline County between Port Royal and Fredericksburg, which his father had placed in his possession in 1772. The elder Corbin kept the title to the properties in his own hands. According to Major John Randolph Grymes, who submitted a sworn statement in support of Richard's claim, it was "notorious" in Virginia that old Richard Corbin gave his children lands but kept the titles himself "in order to ensure obedience." Young Richard claimed he was serving as his father's secretary when his outspoken support for Britain obliged him to flee Virginia in August 1775. Major Grymes was more specific; he said Richard fled because the patriots were going to tar and feather him. Richard arrived in England in September 1775 bringing dispatches from Lord Dunmore and apparently remained there. William Graham, a lawyer who must have been some type of protégé of the receiver
general (he claimed to have "lived many years in the family of . . . Rich'd Corbin the elder"), swore in support of young Richard that the father had intended to bestow "Moss Neck" and "Richland" on the son in his will but had repossessed the land in order to prevent sequestration. 55

Francis Corbin, sent to school in England in 1773, remained there for the duration of the Revolutionary War. He came home in 1783 in the company of his brother Thomas. Francis told Tench Coxe that he delivered letters from Europe to George Washington at Princeton, although, as noted previously in connection with Washington's commission, Francis Corbin's statements concerning men in high places are open to question. Once back in Virginia he wasted little time before entering politics. In 1784 he was elected to the House of Delegates from Middlesex County, the traditional Corbin constituency. Apparently his sojourn in England during the war was no hindrance to him. Francis represented Middlesex in the legislature from 1784 through 1794. In 1788 he was a delegate to the Virginia Convention which ratified the United States Constitution. Francis spoke in favor of ratification and became a Federalist. After the convention he crossed swords in debate with Patrick Henry and got soundly trounced for his pains. Francis was appointed to the Board of Visitors of the College of William and Mary in 1788. In 1795 he married Ann Munford Beverley, the daughter of Robert Beverley of "Blandfield." They made their home at "The Reeds" in Caroline County, a plantation that Richard Corbin had provided for his son. They had eight children. 56

While Richard Corbin was careful to provide land for his sons, he did not neglect to expand his own holdings. His usual practice was to
buy tracts contiguous to acreage he already owned, but he was also concerned in speculative ventures on Virginia's Ohio Valley frontier. By the 1780s Corbin was one of the hundred wealthiest Virginians. According to the King and Queen County tax list for 1782, he was the second largest landowner in the county, with 1,868 acres valued at £467, on which he paid a tax of £11 13s 4d. Jackson Turner Main has calculated that in 1787-1788 Corbin owned 8,324 acres in the counties of King and Queen, Middlesex, Caroline, and Essex.57

Corbin began to expand his holdings not long after his marriage. In 1738 he bought "Weekes Creek" in Middlesex County from Thomas Hobbes Weekes of Southampton, England. He later linked this property with "Perrott's Neck" in Middlesex, which he bought from Robert Chew July 29, 1755. The Chew property was entailed to Chew's wife, Mary Perrott; Chew had to secure an act of the General Assembly docking the entail in order to sell the land to Corbin. Corbin sold "Weekes Creek" and "Perrott's Neck," together containing about two thousand acres, to his son Gawin October 1, 1764 "for natural love and affection" and the token sum of twenty shillings.58

Meanwhile Corbin joined other prominent Virginia planters in speculating in Ohio Valley lands. In 1753 he was one of a group of twenty-five gentlemen, including Philip Ludwell, Charles Carter, Nathaniel Harrison, Benjamin Robinson, Carter Burwell, Mann Page, and William Fitzhugh, which petitioned for a grant in the Ohio Valley. The speculators were granted 190,000 acres in three different tracts, including 100,000 acres at the mouth of the Great Kanawha River. The next year the same group patented 70,000 acres more in two separate tracts.59 In 1772 Corbin and a different group, including his son-in-law Carter
Braxton and John Blair, received a patent from Lord Dunmore for 59,000 acres along the Ohio at the mouth of the Louisa River. 60

Corbin continued to expand his Middlesex holdings. That county seems to have been his favorite area for buying and selling. In 1765 he bought eight hundred acres adjoining his "Dragon Swamp" plantation from Rice Jones for £500. In 1768 Corbin bought 1,861 acres and a grist mill, again adjoining "Dragon Swamp," from Thomas Price. Meanwhile, in 1746 he sold 118 acres to William Montague, and in 1749 he sold 163 acres to John Bryant. 61

Richard Corbin was a responsible gentleman who could be trusted not to cheat his friends and neighbors. Repeatedly his relatives and friends attested to his probity and conscientiousness by appointing him a trustee of their estates and an executor of their wills. In his will dated March 10, 1756, Corbin's cousin Edmund Jenings made him a trustee of the Jenings estate in Virginia and Maryland. Corbin was responsible for collecting large debts owed to the estate, a task he found difficult to perform. Richard Corbin was an executor of the wills of his brother Gawin, his brother-in-law Col. Robert Tucker, and his brother-in-law John Tayloe. He was a trustee of the estate of his fellow councillor Philip Ludwell and an executor of the will of his neighbor Christopher Robinson. 62

When Governor Dinwiddie returned home to England in January 1758, he commissioned his friend Richard Corbin to manage his affairs in Virginia. Corbin was said to have been "quite sincerely affected" at the departure of Dinwiddie and his family. Corbin sold the slaves and the furniture that the Dinwiddies had left behind in Williamsburg. Throughout the following decade Corbin collected thousands of pounds owed to
Dinwiddie by Virginians. In return for Corbin's exertions Dinwiddie was more than generous. He sent Corbin several presents, including a cheese and a chest of lemons. The Dinwiddies entertained the Corbin boys when the young men were at school in England. The former governor's greatest service to his friend in Virginia was to recommend him for the post of deputy receiver general. 63

All of Corbin's many business activities came to an abrupt, though temporary, halt in the spring of 1758 when disaster struck his family. On March 15, while Corbin was away from home, the great house at "Laneville" burned to the ground--"consumed to ashes," as Corbin put it. The catastrophe disrupted Corbin's business through the following summer. It caused him to miss a meeting of the General Assembly and an opportunity for making a tobacco shipment. Fortunately all of Corbin's papers "escaped the consuming flames," but otherwise his loss was considerable. To Corbin's distress, his children had to be farmed out to friends and relatives until the loss could be repaired. 64

Rebuilding turned out to be a headache. Corbin hinted to his English agents to apply to the Crown on his behalf for a bounty to help defray the expense, but nothing seems to have come of it. 65 The hardware needed to build a new house was ordered from England. Then the contractor Corbin hired to build the story-and-a-half brick dwelling proved less than satisfactory. The contractor, one Major Gains, came highly recommended by John Robinson, the speaker of the House of Burgesses, but Corbin complained to Robinson that Gains did not employ good workmen and that Corbin's own slaves had to do most of the work on the house. 66 Despite the disruption and inconvenience of the annoyingly
slow progress on the house, Corbin seems to have returned to business as usual by the fall of 1758.

By the mid-1760s Richard Corbin had achieved a plateau in his career. As he approached the upper limits of middle age, he had just about everything a Virginia gentleman of the eighteenth century could want. He was the wealthy proprietor of broad acres. He was a member of the prestigious governor's council, and he held the additional Crown appointment of receiver general. He had the trust of his friends and relatives. His sons were growing up and about to begin making their marks in the world. His daughter had made a good match with Carter Braxton. Probably about this time Richard Corbin had his portrait painted. Unfortunately, the canvas was badly damaged in the Civil War, and about one-fourth of the face has been obscured. The visible portion depicts a plump, round-faced gentleman in late middle age, with a rather thin lower lip and a double chin. He is wearing a ruffled lace cravat and cuffs. The face in the frame is proud but not unpleasant.\textsuperscript{67}

By rights the years that followed should have been a placid period in Corbin's life. In actuality it was anything but placid. On the contrary, the mid-1760s began a decade of disappointment and anxiety that lasted until Corbin's retirement from public life. The disappointments were personal; he failed to secure for his son the positions of deputy surveyor of the customs and collector of the customs for the Upper District of the James River.\textsuperscript{68} The anxiety applied to the whole colony. Corbin shared the view of many of his contemporaries that Virginia in the 1760s and early 1770s was going to the dogs. He felt Virginians lacked "industry" and "frugality" and were guilty of "luxury" and
"extravagance." Indeed, in speaking of posterity, he called the con-
temporary generation "their degenerate ancestors."69

The uproar over the Stamp Act only deepened the gloom. Before the
act went into effect Corbin had sought the office of distributor of
stamps for Virginia on behalf of the radical Richard Henry Lee. This
was a curious alliance, given Corbin's conservatism. Family ties and
common opposition to Speaker and Treasurer Robinson are probably respon-
sible for the combination. Lee opposed John Robinson (as had Lee's
father, Corbin's cousin Thomas Lee) and had proposed an investigation of
the treasury. Corbin himself was, in the words of one writer, "an
ancient and formidable foe" of Robinson. Corbin apparently shared the
view of Robert Carter Nicholas that Robinson's freedom with the public
money contributed to rising exchange rates.70

All questions of Virginia politics aside, the opposition to the
Stamp Act filled Corbin with foreboding. At the end of October 1765 he
wrote to Capel and Osgood Hanbury, "The arrival of Mr. Geo. Mercer and
his forced resignation of the stamp office has shut up the courts of
justice and thrown us into the utmost confusion, the consequences
whereof are to be dreaded." He saw clearly what the outcome of the
uproar must be. He concluded to the Hanburys, "From the present appear-
ance the peace and quiet of the country depends upon a repeal of the
act."71 He also worried about the effect the Stamp Act disruption
would have on the quitrents. He wrote to John Roberts, "When they
find they can avoid the payment of one tax they may probably plead an
exemption from all."72 The next month he wrote in anguish and apprehen-
sion to Philip Ludwell. Horror and fear of chaos radiate from the let-
ter.
To consider the best ordered colony and the
most loyal people rise in opposition to an act of
Parliament and force Mr. Mercer, the distributor
of the stamps, to resign his office; to see the
courts of justice shut up, and anarchy and con­
fusion gaining ground, is the light in which you
must now view our unhappy country. When the laws
have lost their force, every evil that can be
apprehended is to be dreaded. I pray to God to
avert the danger that threatens, and from his
great goodness to remove our confusion and restore
the order of a just and free, though dependent,
government.73

Corbin allowed that the colonists were "not able to bear any great bur­
then of taxes," and thought merchants in London and Bristol could back
him up on that, but he understood that the heart of the matter was "the
right of Parliament to impose taxes." He hoped that future good behav­
ior on the part of the colonists would atone for their misconduct over
the stamps.74

The furor over the Stamp Act was barely over when John Robinson,
speaker of the House of Burgesses and treasurer of the colony since
1738, died May 11, 1766. A month later Corbin wrote to his old friend
Dinwiddie, "The death of Mr. Robinson . . . will, I am afraid, occasion
a good deal of confusion." That was putting it mildly, as the Virginia
governing class was shaken by the scandal when it was revealed that
Robinson had illegally recirculated over £100,000 of Virginia paper cur­
currency that had been returned to the treasury. In the ensuing partisan
squeabble over the separation of the offices of speaker and treasurer,
Corbin supported separation of the offices. He joined Philip Ludwell,
William Nelson, and Benjamin Waller in supporting Robert Carter Nicholas
in his bid for the treasurer's post. Corbin also wrote letters to his
English correspondents asking them to use their influence to get John
Randolph appointed attorney general, his brother Peyton Randolph having
resigned as attorney general in order to seek the speaker's chair in the House of Burgesses. 75

The governor's council provided little leadership in the protests against British actions, although the councillors made up the traditional leadership elite in the colony. From the end of the Seven Years War to the beginning of the Revolution, Corbin and his fellows scrupulously performed their duties in the General Court and the council chamber, but leadership in the protests resided in the House of Burgesses. In 1768 the council, including Corbin, supported the burgesses' protest against parliamentary power. As a result the instructions to Lord Botetourt included a recommendation that the entire council be cashiered. Cowed, the councillors did not support the nonimportation agreement of 1769. 76

As the approaching storm of the Revolution gathered strength, Richard Corbin's continuing allegiance to Great Britain was indisputable. Yet when the war came he found himself caught between the two sides. Two of his sons, as mentioned previously, were outspoken in their loyalty to Great Britain--and paid for it with exile. On the other hand, his son-in-law Carter Braxton signed the Declaration of Independence. Corbin did what he could to stem the tide. He found himself briefly the center of attention as a go-between for the Committee of Safety and Lord Dunmore. He toyed with the idea of going to England. Instead, he retired from public life, as did most of the governor's council, to live out his days in the obscurity of "Laneville." He was accused of caring more for his money than for principle, not a very admirable attitude but an understandable one in a wealthy man in his declining years.
Events moved swiftly in Virginia in the spring of 1775. At about the time that General Gage marched on Lexington and Concord, John Murray, earl of Dunmore, Virginia’s royal governor, had the gunpowder removed from the magazine in Williamsburg. A week later news of the fighting in Massachusetts reached the Virginia capital. On May 2 the council, including Thomas Nelson, Richard Corbin, William Byrd, Ralph Wormeley, Jr., the Reverend John Camm, and John Page, met with the governor at the Palace to discuss the tense situation. That same day the Committee of Safety of Hanover County authorized Patrick Henry to march his volunteers to Williamsburg to demand the return of the powder.77

Henry sent Ensign Parke Goodall and sixteen men to "Laneville" to demand from Richard Corbin an estimated value of the stolen powder. When Goodall arrived at the plantation, he was told that Corbin was in Williamsburg. Alexander Purdie’s Virginia Gazette reported that Henry and his men planned to "seize upon the person of his Majesty's receiver general (then in this city) till either the gunpowder was restored, or a sum of money paid down to its value." Meanwhile, Lord Dunmore agreed to pay for the powder. Corbin drew up a bill of exchange for £320. His son-in-law Carter Braxton carried this bill to Henry at Doncastle's Ordinary in New Kent County. Henry gave Braxton a receipt in which he promised to convey Corbin's bill of exchange to the Virginia delegation to the Continental Congress.78

Lord Dunmore fled from Williamsburg early the next month. On July 12 the erstwhile governor mentioned the Corbins in a letter to Lord Dartmouth:

Mr. Corbin, Senior, is one of the most influential loyalists in the colony, and his son [presumably Richard] leaves America entirely on account of the disturbances, having found his life in danger.
because he would not join the provincials. He is well informed of the transactions in the colony.79

After the governor fled, a few of the councillors, President Thomas Nelson, Richard and Gawin Corbin, the Reverend John Camm, and William Byrd, tried to carry on the government. Richard Corbin was so scrupulous in the performance of his duties that as late as December he was still warning sheriffs whose quitrent payments were in arrears to pay their balances to the receiver general's office by January 31, 1776. According to Lord Dunmore a mob tried to force Corbin to join the patriot cause, but he refused. On July 31, Corbin stated flatly, "My duty and loyalty [are] to the King."80

Over the next seven months Corbin and Dunmore corresponded. It is uncertain which man began the exchange of letters, but Corbin wrote to the governor July 31. He wrote again about the middle of August. Corbin's letter does not seem to have survived, but Dunmore's answer of September 5, addressed to Corbin at "Laneville," has been preserved. In this letter Dunmore wrote that Corbin had mentioned in his August letter that he was not going to England because of what his fellow Virginians might think, even though he had pressing business in the Mother Country and the permission of the Virginia Convention to attend to it. Apparently Corbin was apprehensive of giving offense to the Virginia revolutionaries. Dunmore urged him to go "home" on the chance that he might be the means of a reconciliation. "I think if there is but a chance that your going can be of the smallest service to your native land, nothing aught [sic] to prevent you."81

Lord Dunmore wrote to Corbin again on January 22, 1776. Dunmore quoted a speech the king had made to Parliament the previous October and
urged Corbin to "enforce by every exertion of your best advice and assistance the sincere endeavors which the generous, the humane, the truly noble sentiments expressed in the part of his Majesty's speech just quoted, prompt you to make, to affect, by any means that should be thought most advisable, an honorable, permanent, speedy, and happy reconciliation between the colony and the Mother Country." The letter also contained some propositions for negotiating an accommodation between the colony and England. Corbin placed this letter from the runaway governor before the Committee of Safety February 19 and asked for permission to visit Dunmore on his ship "to receive letters which had come from London, and were to be delivered into his own hands."

Edmund Pendleton, president of the Committee of Safety, wrote a letter to Corbin explaining that the committee had no authority to negotiate with Dunmore; however, he offered to put Dunmore's letter before the House of Burgesses. Pendleton concluded his letter, "We have the greatest confidence, sir, in your attachment to the real interests of America, and are satisfied your having communicated the contents of this letter to us proceeds from the best motives," an indication of the respect in which Richard Corbin was held, Tory or not. The Committee of Safety sent Corbin to meet with Dunmore under a flag of truce. He read Pendleton's letter to the governor. At Pendleton's behest Corbin also asked Dunmore to grant a commission for Thomas Nelson, the senior member of the governor's council, to convene the General Assembly, which could not constitutionally conduct business without a Crown representative. Dunmore refused to issue the commission.

The letters that Lord Dunmore had for Corbin included a commission appointing Corbin lieutenant governor of Virginia. The commission was
dated July 29, 1773; however, Lord Dartmouth instructed Dunmore not to deliver the document. Dunmore himself wrote of Corbin, "I am persuaded from his disposition, time of life, and situation in the country, that he would not . . . accept of the honor." It is, however, possible that Dunmore did deliver the commission, perhaps as an inducement to work for reconciliation. There is a tradition that Corbin received the commission and, rather than destroy it to prevent it from falling into patriot hands, hid it in a secret compartment of his secretary.\footnote{85}

In any event, nothing came of Richard Corbin's errand to Lord Dunmore. The governor was distrusted. A correspondent wrote sarcastically to the \textit{Virginia Gazette}, concerning Dunmore's letter to Corbin, "As to his [Dunmore's] sincerity, we all know how much dependence is to be put on that."\footnote{86}

That meticulous diarist Landon Carter had a few things to say about Richard Corbin in the first months of 1776. Carter suspected "the devil," his epithet for Dunmore, was up to something, and he disapproved of Corbin's visit. On Sunday, February 25, 1776, he wrote, "But what shall we say to Corbin, who has openly declared his conviction of the creature's [Dunmore's] baseness and villany [sic]? How can he go to see him? I know I would not."\footnote{87} Apparently there were some doubts that spring about the depth of Corbin's loyalism. On March 31, Carter wrote, "I have heard . . . that old Corbin would be a patriot if his wife and children would let him."\footnote{88} But by May Carter was thoroughly disgusted with Corbin:

\begin{quote}

[Corbin] had acted the prudent man. First, believing [sic] Britain would get the better of America, he would not associate unless the majority of the council did. I then laughed at his putting his country on the chance of one man's vote,
\end{quote}
for that might be a majority, and I shook hands with him for the last time, telling him I never would shake hands with an enemiy to my country. And now he sees America will conquer or die in the attempt, he is for his country: . . . his prudence lay in not only siding with the strongest, but also where most of his god money could be got.87

Apparently sometime late in the spring or early in the summer of 1776, Richard Corbin retired to "Laneville." Initially, life in retirement was not easy, thanks to the family's loyalism. A confiscated letter (author and addressee unidentified) published in the Virginia Gazette describes the Corbins' position.

Should you receive no letters from any of Col. Corbin's family, you must not impute it to want of regard or respect. They are all afraid to write even to their brothers. It is impossible to tell you how much they are persecuted and afflicted. Your old shipmate is banished and confined to a Negro quarter, where he is in want of every necessary of life. His friends dare not go to see him, or even write to him. His poor father is under the greatest affliction and his lady in a situation illly able to bear a separation from him.90

After these initial difficulties, however, Corbin seems to have been left alone, as was the case with other former councillors who retired from public life. In 1782 he was duly paid for supplies that had been impressed for the American army in 1780. He continued to function as executor of the estate of Christopher Robinson. In 1785 he won a suit for debt in Middlesex County.91 In short, his private life seems to have gone on much as before—thanks, no doubt, to that very prudence for which Landon Carter castigated him. This prudent course of quiet retirement for the last fifteen years of his life enabled him to keep his considerable estate together, safe from sequestration.

Perhaps Corbin was ill or had some premonition that the end was near when he made his last will and testament March 12, 1790. To John
Tayloe, his eldest surviving son, he bequeathed "Laneville" and his other property in King and Queen County, along with "Corbin Hall" and other lands in Middlesex County. Francis got "The Reeds" in Caroline County. Thomas and Richard, the expatriates, were not forgotten. To Thomas, Corbin bequeathed a mortgage against one James Hunter valued at £2,529 7s 11d. He directed John Tayloe to pay young Richard £200 sterling annually for life. Corbin also provided for Gawin's offspring. Richard Henry, Gawin's son and heir, received "Buckingham," the old family homestead in Middlesex County, and several other plantations. Gawin's daughters Ann, Felicia, and Jane each received £500 sterling and two slaves. Corbin confirmed the dowry he had bestowed on Gawin's eldest daughter, Betty Tayloe, when she married George Turberville in 1782. As executors Corbin named his four surviving sons, specifically charging John Tayloe to see that all claims against the estate were paid.92

Sometime between March and September 1790 Richard Corbin died. His will was probated at a district court for the counties of King and Queen, Essex, Middlesex, and King William held at King and Queen Court House September 15, 1790.93

Richard Corbin's career in public life lasted just over forty years, from his first appointment as a justice of the peace in Middlesex County in 1735 through his vain attempts to mediate between the Committee of Safety and Lord Dunmore in the early months of 1776. His alleged accusation against George Washington in 1757 aside, he developed a reputation for integrity. People knew they could trust him with their property, and they did so repeatedly. Landon Carter's accusation that he cared more for "his god money" than for principles was unfair; his principles simply differed from Carter's. In the pistole fee dispute,
in the currency controversy, and during the upheavals preceding the Rev-
olution, he held firmly to his beliefs despite their unpopularity. If
Lord Dunmore was correct, not even a mob could sway him from what he
thought was right. His loyalism was thus based on strong principle, not
opportunism. However, when he saw that British rule in Virginia was at
an end and there was nothing he could do about it, he quietly retired
from public life, prudently trimming his sails to fit the new wind, and
accepted that which he could not change.
INTRODUCTION TO
THE RICHARD CORBIN LETTERBOOK
1758--1760

Richard Corbin's letterbook, part of the collection of Corbin family papers in the archives of the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, contains approximately three hundred pages of copies of Corbin's correspondence for a ten-year period, 1758 through 1768. This edition covers the first three years of letters, from the first letter in the book, addressed to Robert Dinwiddie, the former governor of Virginia, and dated April 20, 1758, through the last letter to bear a date in 1760, one Corbin wrote to the merchant Robert Cary under date of December 13, 1760.

This edition contains a transcript of seventy pages of the original manuscript, including eighty-three complete letters written by Richard Corbin in this three-year period. There are also five large invoices of clothing and supplies ordered by Corbin from his English correspondents and four fragments of letters written between October 8, 1759, and January 31, 1760, and subsequently torn from the letterbook. These letters deal with Corbin's personal business\(^1\) to the exclusion of nearly everything else. Only one letter, written to Corbin's eldest son, who was completing his education in England, may be said to be free from business matters and from comments on the state of Virginia politics and the prospects of the Virginia tobacco crop.\(^2\)
One very striking feature of Corbin's manuscript is that not all the letters are in the same hand. The editor observed as many as six different "hands" or styles of handwriting in the manuscript. These "hands" range from a very elegant, precise, secretarial type to a large, rather childish scrawl. Based on a brief examination of the letters, observing the slant of the writing and the shape and formation of some distinctive letters, such as lower-case "a" and "d," the editor has concluded that at least three of these "hands" are the work of one person, presumably Corbin himself, who chose to employ different styles of penmanship at different times. However, the conclusion that more than one person was responsible for penning the letterbook copies is inescapable. The few letters in the large scrawl, for example, suggest that Corbin had one of his adolescent sons practice his penmanship by copying his father's letters into the book.

The letters in this edition appear exactly in the order in which they are found in the manuscript. All the letters are not in strict chronological order. For example, a letter Corbin dated June 16, 1758, follows two letters dated June 22, 1758. Also, a letter dated June 30, 1760, appears before two letters dated June 4, 1760, and one each dated June 12 and June 18, 1760. Thus it appears that Corbin did not always make copies of his letters at the same time he composed them. He could allow his letters to accumulate before he copied them because sometimes months passed between the date he wrote a letter and the date he was finally able to dispatch it. His letter to the Hanburys, for example, is dated April 12, 1759, but bears the notation, "By Ward, who saild the last of July." Perhaps inevitably, not all of Corbin's letters were recorded in the book. As a prime example, in one letter to Robert
Dinwiddie, Corbin refers the former governor to a letter Corbin wrote to him dated April 13, 1759; however, the letterbook contains no letter to Dinwiddie under the date in question. It appears that often the letters Corbin did preserve in his book were written in groups, for example, five dated April 26, 1758; five more dated June 25, 1759; yet another three dated May 7, 1760. Perhaps these letters were written at times when Corbin had an opportunity of posting them at once; the letters contain no clues to when they were mailed.

Corbin's most extensive correspondence was with the London firm of John, Capel, and Osgood Hanbury. The complete letterbook contains eighty-eight letters to these Quaker merchants, almost twice as many as Corbin wrote to any other individual or merchant firm. This transcript contains seventeen of these letters, including two invoices, plus one letter fragment which appears to have been addressed to the Hanburys.

Corbin began consigning tobacco to the Hanburys as early as 1750, but this business relationship caused the Virginian no end of vexation. Corbin felt what he called "a commercial friendship" for the Hanburys, but he bluntly told John Hanbury, "I have been really obliged to send a large part of my crops to other houses because I have received better prices from them." On one occasion he complained that a number of hogsheads of tobacco were missing from the statement of his account that the Hanburys sent him; on another he fretted that Edward Athawes had gotten him forty shillings more per hogshead than the Hanburys for tobaccos of similar weights from the same plantation. Corbin warned the Hanbury brothers that they had practically become a by-word in Virginia: When news of a particularly bad sale arrived, the planters immediately assumed that the Hanburys had made the deal. Moreover, the Hanburys
charged him for insurance he did not order, a matter which exercised Corbin's patience for over two years.\textsuperscript{12}

With such sore provocation, it seems strange that Corbin doggedly continued to deal with the Hanburys, and stranger still that he had the Hanburys set up a separate account in his name as deputy receiver general to handle the transfer of revenue from Virginia to Britain after he assumed the receiver's post in 1762.\textsuperscript{13} The answer to why Corbin continued this poorly paying connection lies in the organization of the tobacco consignment trade. As Samuel M. Rosenblatt has explained,\textsuperscript{14} the system was built of credit and founded on trust. Corbin, like other planters, was reluctant to leave any established source of credit. To dump the Hanburys was to jeopardize his reputation, and therefore his credit, with the London merchant community. Yet Corbin needed a good credit rating in order to do business. Rather than risk his credit he continued to send tobacco to the Hanburys even though his trade with other houses was more profitable.

Corbin's second most numerous correspondence was with former Virginia Governor Robert Dinwiddie, who left Corbin to manage his affairs in Virginia when he and his family returned to England.\textsuperscript{15} The complete letterbook contains forty-seven letters to Robert Dinwiddie, fifteen of which (plus one fragment) were written between April 1758 and December 1760, inclusive. When the governor went home, various Virginians owed him debts worth thousands of pounds. For example, the impecunious William Byrd III owed Dinwiddie £1200 in protested bills of exchange—the eighteenth-century equivalent of the bad check—and Speaker John Robinson owed over £2500 in protested exchanges.\textsuperscript{16} It fell to Corbin to collect this money and send it to Dinwiddie in the form of bills of exchange.
Corbin assured Dinwiddie, "What ever occurs relative to you or your business, you may depend upon having timely notice thereof." Corbin also sold the household goods the Dinwiddies left in Williamsburg.

Corbin's job as Dinwiddie's bill-collector tried his patience for a decade. Although he was "solicitous" and used "pressing" means, the money only trickled in. Corbin wrote, "It gives me concern to make you these partial remittances, though it is not in my power to do more." At one time he hoped to make a large payment, but as events proved, he was unable to collect anything: "Not a single penny have I received since the 8th of November last." Moreover, the Virginia courts were "indifferent" to suits he filed to collect Dinwiddie's money. Nevertheless, Corbin kept after the former governor's debtors, dutifully sending the money when he could collect it, including in his letters lists of how much and from whom he received payments. The three years of letters transcribed here chronicle his efforts in this period on behalf of his friend the ex-governor.

Corbin's letters to his cousin Edmund Jenings are an important part of the letterbook. Jenings's father, by the terms of his will, made Corbin a trustee of the Jenings estate in Maryland and Virginia. Corbin's letters to Edmund Jenings are very similar to those he wrote to Robert Dinwiddie in that they form a running narrative of Corbin's attempts to collect debts owed to the Jenings estate. This transcript provides a three-year excerpt of this story. William Byrd III was again one of the principal debtors, but Benjamin Harrison, who owed Jenings £1006, gave Corbin as much if not more trouble than the spend-thrift Byrd, who owed £1500. Corbin wrote to Harrison, "Mr. Jenings is full of anxiety and very importunate to have the principal paid. I wish to
Yet when Harrison paid, his payments were late, and his bills of exchange were protested. Corbin treated Harrison with the utmost forbearance, but his patience at last wore thin and in late 1760 he threatened to go to law to collect his kinsman's money.25

Along with debt collection, a major concern of Corbin's letters to Jenings was the payment of an inheritance to Jenings's sister, Mrs. John Randolph. In his will Mrs. Randolph's father left Corbin £1700 in trust to pay Mrs. Randolph the interest from the money annually for life. The yearly interest amounted to £85.26 The letters presented here provide a three-year record of Corbin's activities as trustee of Mrs. Randolph's legacy. Corbin was anxious to secure payment of the legacy in the event of his own illness or death. He wrote to Jenings, "My health has been some time impaired, and least an accident to me might be injurious to you, I shou'd be glad to have some person joined with me, or at least a conditional power to act in case of my death."27 Mrs. Randolph's husband, the future attorney general of the colony, wanted to bring a suit in Chancery to retain the annuity out of the debts Corbin collected in Virginia, but this plan does not seem to have been carried out.28 Corbin wanted to add £200 of the principal owed by Benjamin Harrison to the £1500 owed by William Byrd to make up the £1700 of the legacy, leaving the money on deposit with the trustees of the Byrd estate, who would then pay Mrs. Randolph the £85 annual interest. This plan foundered when Harrison reneged on a promise to pay part of his principal.29 By the end of the section of the letterbook transcribed here, no changes had been made in the arrangements for Mrs. Randolph's legacy.
The first three years of Richard Corbin's letterbook show a very human and personal aspect of the transatlantic trading community of the mid-eighteenth century while contributing to knowledge of the material culture of late-colonial Virginia. During this period Corbin recorded invoices of items ordered from his English agents, a practice he discontinued after 1760. In three years Corbin ordered over £1200 in clothing, tools, foodstuffs, and other items from such merchants as Edward Athawes, John Backhouse, and Capel and Osgood Hanbury.

When Corbin's house burned on March 15, 1758, it was from England that he ordered the hardware to rebuild: sash pulleys and lines (although not window glass), lead in bars and sheets, door and shutter hinges, screws, and locks. When he needed shoes or clothing for his slaves or for his growing children it was from England that he bought the necessary items. He sometimes ordered clothing ready-made, as when he ordered "a suit of pink coloured lutestring made to the stays and hoops, the petticoat full long" for his daughter Elizabeth, or "1 pr. of doe skin breeches" for his son John Tayloe, or "80 men's fearnothing jackets, large and well sown" for his slaves. More often he ordered the material from which to make the needed clothing, such as the "3½ yds. of broad cloth . . . with buttons and triming" or the "300 yds. kersey or fear nothing . . . that is strong and warm for Negroes." Careful of every penny, Corbin habitually indicated the price he expected to pay for these items. In general, he ordered everything from silk stockings to earthenware chamber pots from Europe.

This primeval mail-order shopping did have its drawbacks. Of course, prices of the items Corbin wanted rose. For example, in 1758 Corbin paid five pounds for a hundredweight of sugar; two years later he
paid £5 10s for the same amount of sugar. The hazards of sea travel could disrupt his plans. Corbin reported that Mrs. Corbin and their daughters were grievously disappointed in 1759 when a ship carrying goods they had ordered was lost at sea. Then, too, merchants did not always give Corbin his money's worth for the supplies ordered. However, no one gave him as much trouble with his purchases as a firm of wine merchants in Madiera. Corbin first wrote to Messrs. Hill, Lamar & Hill late in 1758 to ask that they send him one pipe of wine every year, for which they were to draw on the Hanburys for payment. By the following April he expected imminent delivery of his wine, and he wrote to ask them to ship him another cask plus a quarter-cask of malmsey. However, in late June he wrote angrily, demanding to know, "What is become of the wine?" He had received a bill of "loading" for one pipe of wine, for which the merchants had charged his account with the Hanburys for £29 3s, but "Captain Blake declares and Colonel Tucker asserts it was never shipped." In response to this extraordinary conduct, Corbin wrote to the Hanburys, instructing them not to pay any more bills from Hill, Lamar & Hill on his account. He also switched agents, ordering wine the following February from the firm of Scott, Pringle & Cheap.

Perhaps the most fascinating aspect of the Corbin letterbook is the glimpse it offers into the personality of the letter writer. Because of Richard Corbin's wealth and social position, he scarcely qualifies as an Everyman of eighteenth-century Virginia. However, his letters do provide a view of the character of a neglected member of the ruling elite of pre-Revolutionary Virginia.

The reader of Corbin's letters is struck by the persistence with which he conducted Robert Dinwiddie's business. For years Corbin took
time away from his own affairs to pursue the former governor's debtors. Dinwiddie responded by sending Corbin presents and by helping him to the post of deputy receiver general, but Dinwiddie's favors seem a small return for the labor Corbin invested on the former governor's behalf. Corbin may have hoped to get more in return for his services than he actually received; be that as it may, he managed Dinwiddie's business with a loyal, single-minded determination for years without receiving much in return.

Concerning his own business, Richard Corbin was meticulous and always eager to expand his profits. He kept a sharp eye on all expenditures. As already noted, he made it a practice to carefully list the amount he expected to pay for goods purchased by his agents. Corbin's letter to James Semple, his estate manager, illustrates his painstaking attention to the smallest details. Corbin gave Semple detailed instructions on caring for the Negroes to keep them fit and working, tending to the cattle (which were penned in the tobacco fields to fertilize the soil), and harvesting and packing tobacco so that the crop would be ready for sale by Christmas, weigh more, and bring a larger profit. Although hesitant to abandon unprofitable connections, Corbin was ever ready to begin new ones in hopes of increasing his profits; in 1760 he opened two new accounts, one with the firm of Robert Cary & Co., one with the house of Messrs. Thomas Rumbold & John Walker, the latter on the recommendation of his brother-in-law John Tayloe and another friend. Corbin was unfailingly conscientious about obligations imposed upon him, and he expected others to be just as conscientious about their obligations to him—although not always with success.
Corbin's letters also show glimpses into his domestic relations. Regrettably, the letters do not illuminate his relationship with his wife, to whom he always politely referred as "Mrs. Corbin." The letters do reveal Corbin as an affectionate father to his children. He used nicknames for the youngsters: "Johny" and "Dickey" for John Tayloe and Richard, "Betty" and "Alicey" for Elizabeth and Alice. When the great house at "Laneville" burned in 1758, he wrote that "the dispersion of my children consequent upon" the disaster "wounded me to the heart." Appreciating the value of education, he requested that a Scottish tutor be found for his younger sons. Like other wealthy Virginia fathers, Corbin saw to his sons' wardrobes himself, rather than leaving that task to the boys' mother. Cleverly he headed off sibling rivalry in the clothing department by ordering identical items for each boy. When he bought John Tayloe "a silver-laced hat," he bought silver-laced hats for Richard and Thomas as well. While Gawin, his oldest son, was completing his education in England, Corbin plainly missed him and anxiously awaited his return. His letters to England commonly include a request such as, "You will be pleased to remember me to my dear son." The only letter to Gawin that has been preserved in the letterbook reflects the universal concern of a parent whose child is on his own in the Big City and concludes with the frugal advice, characteristic of Corbin, never to "exceed the bounds of your allowance." Corbin frequently met with disappointments during his years managing Robert Dinwiddie's business and the affairs of the Jenings estate. He met with setbacks in his own business through inept tobacco merchants and losses at sea. Occasionally he lost his temper, as when he lectured the Hanbury brothers on their lack of business acumen. However,
Corbin's letterbook reveals a certain resigned stoicism of outlook that perhaps helped him to endure the disappointments and setbacks. When the ship Deliverance took a cargo of Corbin tobacco to the bottom of the Atlantic, Corbin wrote, "I think the tobo. I had on board was the best I ever made, but we must not look back upon our losses but forward to repair them."52 Perhaps more important in enduring such disappointments than this stoicism was Corbin's definite wry sense of humor. When the Hanburys failed (as usual) to get the expected price for a shipment of tobacco, Corbin wrote, "Nay, put me out of my pain, and let me know the value of it as soon as you can."53 On another occasion, he advised Robert Dinwiddie to threaten to sue Philip Grymes, who had endorsed some bills of exchange which had been returned protested. "I know he will grumble a good ideal," Corbin wrote, "and perhaps curse you in his heart, but, as I believe, it will hasten the payment, and so you get your money, I shall be satisfied."54 Presumably Mr. Grymes would not.

Richard Corbin's letterbook sheds no radical new light on the history of eighteenth-century Virginia. The material found in the letters will neither inspire new theories about the past nor explode any old ones. The letterbook is no more nor no less than simply a part of the total primary source material available for studying the history of colonial Virginia. The value of the letterbook lies in its enabling the scholar of the period to learn more about one colonial Virginian, Richard Corbin, and, through him, to gain further insights into the history of the period.
EDITORIAL METHOD

It has seemed unnecessary to preserve fidelity to the original even to the extent of including 18th century vagaries and errors in punctuation. . . . The value of this correspondence lies primarily in its subject matter. . . . The important thing is the sense, the meaning.¹

These words, with which Louis Knott Koontz introduced his edition of the correspondence of Governor Robert Dinwiddie, encapsulate the guiding principles followed in preparing this edition of Richard Corbin's letterbook for the years 1758, 1759, and 1760. The aim of the editor has been to provide an annotated transcript of Corbin's letters in which the source material contained in the letters is made available unimpeded by the peculiarities of eighteenth-century orthography.

With this goal in mind, the editor has in general followed the "modernized method" for documentary editing as explained in the Harvard Guide to American History.² Throughout, capitalization and punctuation have been modernized. Dashes have been eliminated. The ampersand has been expanded to "and" in all cases except in the names of merchant firms. The form "&ca" has been rendered "etc." The "tailed 'p'" (ȝ) has been expanded to "per," "pro," or "by," as needed. Throughout, "pc" has been expanded to "percent." All superscripts have been brought to the line, and all editorial insertions, emendations, corrections, or conjectures placed within square brackets. However, in a departure from the Harvard Guide method, Corbin's spelling, which usually varied little from standard twentieth-century forms, has been retained. Also, the
"double-'d'," which Corbin seems to have used as an abbreviation for a number of things, has been retained and rendered throughout as "dd."

Abbreviations presented the most perplexing problem for the editor. Corbin used abbreviations quite extensively in writing his letterbook copies. Frequently he did not abbreviate the same word the same way every time he abbreviated it. Therefore, in general, abbreviations in the text of the letters have been expanded, in line with the Harvard Guide's "modernized method." However, a few common abbreviations, such as "hhds" for "hogsheads" and "Esq." for "esquire," as well as "tobo.," Corbin's pet form for "tobacco," have been retained throughout. Also, in the invoices of goods and bills of exchange, where Corbin's space- and time-saving abbreviations (such as "yds.," "ps.," "do,") run riot, the original forms have been standardized and retained for the sake of space, with punctuation silently added where needed for the sake of clarity. Abbreviations used in headings and complimentary closings have been reduced to a standardized form (e.g., "Capt.," "Co.," "Y'r mo. ob'd't h'ble ser't").

In his letterbook copies Corbin rarely crossed out words after he wrote them. Occasionally, he supplied an alternate reading between the lines, with the original form underlined. In transcribing these letters the original, underscored text has been retained, with the interlineation placed after it in square brackets. (An exception to this is the letter to Edmund Jenings of November 6, 1758, where Corbin himself placed parentheses around an underscored statement and continued writing without interlineations; in this case the text has been rendered exactly as Corbin wrote it.)
All figures appearing in the letters have been placed in a standard form. Numbers with four digits or less have been written without commas; a comma has been inserted in all figures with more than four digits. The abbreviation "m," meaning "one thousand," has been expanded. Monetary amounts appear in the standard form £ s d, except in columns of figures in invoices, where s and d are replaced by periods, following Corbin's practice.

In writing to his tobacco merchants, Corbin frequently had occasion to include in the text of his letters sketches of the brands placed on his tobacco hogsheads to identify them as his property. These brands, or tobacco marks, varied according to which of his plantations or quarters had produced the tobacco. No attempt has been made here to duplicate these marks. Instead, the missing marks are indicated by square brackets in the text and an accompanying explanatory note.

All of the letters have been placed in a standard format. The heading, consisting of the name of the person to whom the letter was addressed, plus a date in standardized month-day-year form, has been placed flush left at the beginning of each letter. Any other notes made by Corbin in the top margin of the letter have been placed flush left directly under the date. At the end of each letter, the complimentary closing has also been placed flush left.
Robert Dinwiddie, Esq.  
April 20, 1758
By the Anna, Capt. James Estin

A letter from Mr. Secretary Pitt to press us to exert our utmost efforts to annoy the enemy and act upon the offensive induced the President, with the advice of the council, to have a meeting of the assembly. They passed one act for another emission of £32,000 paper, to make our complement of men 2000, who are to join the king's forces under General Forbes. Another bill likewise passed the burgesses for appointing Mr. Paris their agent, and WN, TN, PR, PG, and several members of the House of Burgesses were named the Committee of Correspondence to control and keep within proper bounds the next and every future governor, who they expect will give their assent to such a bill without hesitation. An accident prevented my attendance upon this assembly, but I have been since told if the President's power had not been circumscribed this bill would have passed the whole legislature. The burgesses, however, for the present, have contented themselves with drawing up a remonstrance, which is to be transmitted to Mr. Secretary Pitt by the Speaker; what the purpose of this remonstrance is in general I cannot certainly learn, but this I am informed off in particular, that they desire an account may be fairly stated of the disposition of the £20,000 which, they tell Mr. Pitt, only a small part was applied for
their immediate relief. As you are personally pointed at in this inquiry, I thought it my duty to apprise you of it, that if called upon you may be prepared to justifie your character. But you will perhaps say, What is all this to me? What have I now to [do] with the remonstrance of the burgesses? I had rather know what progress you are like to make in the collection of my debts. I before mentioned an accident prevented my attendance upon this assembly; this accident was no less than the burning of my house, which was in my absence from home consumed to ashes. I never was more affected with any thing that ever happened to me, and the dispertion of my children consequent upon it wounded me to the heart. My loss is very considerable; your papers, Mr. Jenings', and my own escaped the consuming flames. I am just got to town, and every endeavor of mine shall be exerted for your Honor's service. My only fears and apprehensions at present are in respect to your large demands; it will be difficult to perswade them to draw bills which they are certain will be again protested, and I believe they will rather suffer themselves to be sued and pay in paper at the exchange the court shall fix. If this shoud be the case, as I have reason to believe it will, I shoud be glad if your Honor woud desire and give me leave to pay the money so recovered or received to Colonel Hunter, who will be much better able and is more in the way of negotiating and buying bills of exchange than I am or can be by my way of life. Your order upon Mr. Braxton for £227 2s sterling is the only one that is payable this month. He is not in town; I have wrote to him aboute it, and I shall be glad to receive his bill to remit to you by this opportunity. I hope the other gentlemen will be punctual to their engagements next June.
Colonel Hunter told me this day he had Byrd's bill for £1200, which Mr. Hanbury returned protested. I am glad it got into his hands; had it reached the President, his curiosity tempts him to peruse every letter directed to your Honor. The box left in your study and directed to me, he was not easie till he had searched it and examined every paper to find out the disposition of the £20,000. This bill of £1200 I verily believe will be paid in paper, and if they insist to pay only the same sum with which it was bought with 10 percent for damage, it will not purchase bills of equal value. Such is and much [sic] be the consequence of the constant and annual emission of paper; every creditor in some degree must be effected, and no man can certainly pronounce what he is worth if the exchange thus keeps continually rising.

It is now the 21 April. I spoke to Colonel Hunter last night, and he promises me his assistance in every thing that will be for your Honor's service, so that if I shoud be pressed to accept of our currency, it will be a satisfaction and I hope an advantage to you to have the business of exchange and the negotiating of bills performed by so able a hand; and for this service he desired me to acquaint your Honor he required no satisfaction. I believe for the present I have sufficiently tired your Honor; I beg leave therefore only to assure you, that what ever occurs relative to you or your business, you may depend upon having timely notice thereof from,

Sir, etc.
James Buchanan, Esq.  

April 26, 1758

By the Anna, Capt. Estin

By the Baltimore, Captain Crookshankes, I sent you 8 hhds of my [ ], which I hope you have received.

This will enclose you a bill of loading for 13 hhds of tobo. by the Anna, Captain Estin, who will sail with convoy.

An embargo is laid upon all ships, and it is supposed it will continue near 3 months longer.

The military operations for this year seem to be carried on with vigor; our assembly have made another emission of paper for [£]32,000; our quota to assist in the common cause is 2000 men, who are to join the king's forces under General Forbes.

The large debts due here upon bond and protested bills and the very great sums that are owing to the merchants of Great Brittain was my inducement for always opposing the emission of paper as legal tender, as I was satisfied and convinced all these creditors woud be affected by the consequences that must naturally follow. Had all prior creditors, all debts due before the emission of any paper money, been excepted, had proper provision been made for these creditors, I should have made no objection. Though these are a few of my reasons and this my opinion of our present currency, the majority, the far greatest number, have other views and other sentiments.

The 15th of last month, whilst I was from home, my dwelling house was unfortunately burnt; my friend Mr. Dinwiddie's papers, Mr. Jenings.' and my own were luckily preserved. An accident of this sort happened to Colonel Lee, and as he was then attending the public business,
application was made to the late queen, being regent in the king's absence, in consequence whereof he had an order out of the queen's trents for [£]300. As the case is similar I just mention it, but if my friends cannot obtain it without difficulty, I am unwilling to give them any trouble.

I suppose it will be judged necessary after this year's stay at Cambridge for the removal of my son to the Temple to get an insight into the law. [I] shall ever retain the most grateful remembrance of your kindness to him.

I am,

James Abercrombie, Esq.

April 26, 1758

By the Anna, Capt. Estin

Since the departure of our friend Mr. Dinwiddie, I find by the temper and disposition of some gentlemen that they are desirous of employing a new agent. Indeed, the assembly that lately met passed a bill appointing Mr. Paris their agent, and four members of the council and several of the other house were named in the bill to correspond with him. An accident prevented my attendance upon this assembly, but I have since heard if the President's power had not been limited the bill would have passed the whole legislature; the institution of this new power is intended to controul and keep within proper bounds the next and every future governor, who they expect will pass such a bill without hesitation.

The recent occasion of their disapprobation of your conduct arises from two of your letters upon the last emission of paper, in the support of which they say you ought to exert all your interest.
I thought it necessary to give you these hints to be upon your guard and secure your interest with the next governor.

Whatever information of this sort you may receive from me, I beg you would not bring my name in question, and you may depend upon any service in my power.

The large debts due here, etc. (as in preceding letter). Pray make my complements to my worthy friend Mr. Dinwiddie and his family, and if it should be in your way to do any kind service to my son, every acknowledgement will be made for it by,

Sir,

John Hanbury, Esq., & Co. 21

April 26, 1758

By the Anna, Capt. James Estin

By the Baltimore, Captain Crookshanks, I sent you 43 hhds of my [ ], 22 which I hope you have received, and from the shortness of the present crop and the great scarcity of plants and not tobo. seed sufficient in the country to resow, the next crop must be yet less, that I have well grounded expectations of its arriving to a good market.

Inclosed is a bill of loading for 17 hhds more of the same crop on board the Anna, Captain Estin.

An embargo is laid upon all ships, and it is supposed it will continue near [3] 23 months longer.

Our assembly have voted 2000 [men] to assist in the common cause and have emitted [£]32,000 more paper money.

The large debts due, etc.
I must beg the favor of you to send me 1200 ells of osingbrigs and 3 pieces of blanketing duffle, which I shall be glad to receive early in October next.

Benjamin Harrison, Esq.

[April 26, 1758]

Dear Sir:

I had the favor of your letter, dated the 26th instant, by the hands of Mr. Stith. It is so agreeable to my temper and disposition to treat with tenderness and decency every gentleman with whom I have any transactions, and more especially one of honor, of family, and of fortune, that although I have been very importunately urged to bring this business to a conclusion, and have in consequence thereof made use of the most pressing instances, yet I have always observed that regard that is due to a gentleman of your character.

The last letters from Mr. Jenings is extremely urgent. He has docked the intail of his estate in Yorkshire, the foreruning of a sale, a necessity to which he may be drove by the want of the money due to him here. The consideration of this will have its weight with you. He rely's upon your assurance in a former letter dated in October last, a copy of which I sent him. It is a tender point on both sides; the ties of blood and friendship influences me on the one, a sincere and hearty regard on the other. You hereby see the difficulty I am under. To give satisfaction to you both woud be a pleasure to me. I am, with great respect,

Y'r ser.
Edmund Jenings, Esq.  

April 26, 1758

By the Anna, Capt. James Estin

Since my last to you, nothing material in your affairs have occurred.

By the Baltimore, Captain Crookeshankes, and the [ ], Captain Baker,
I remitted to Mr. Buchanan for your use the following bills of exchange:

Wormeley on Hanbury for his annuity £100.00.00

Tayloe on Buchanan for 1 yr,'s in'st of Thornton's bond 50.00.00

Yeuille on Murdock for do. of Byrd's bond 75.00.00

Harrison on Lidderdale & Co. in satisfaction of his protested ex. and in part of one year's interest. 184.00.00

But I must beg leave to refer you to the bills and letter itself for the greater certainty.

Thornton's bond, as Colonel Tayloe stands security, is as good as any debt can be. The interest will be punctually paid and in about two years the principal, if you desire it, or sooner if you should be pressing for it. Harrison's bond and Byrd's I cannot say so much in favor of, for though their estates are sufficient upon the whole to answer these demands, they have other debts to pay and many importunate creditors to satisfie, that it will be a work of time before these debts are paid. Byrd's trustees talk of selling his estate, and Harrison talks of paying part of his principal in June. I place no dependence upon it. Had I received these debts I should have been glad, both for your sake and your sister's, to have disposed of your father's legacy to her, etc., upon a good and a public security of 6 percent, but the time is elapsed and
[should] such another opportunity [arise] you may be assured of my best endeavors to serve you.

The 15 of last month, whilst I was from home, my house was burnt. Every paper of consequence was saved. I never was more affected with any thing that ever happened to me. You will be pleased to remember me to my dear son. I suppose his friends will think of his removal to the Temple next year. I am satisfied, my friend, you will do him every good office in your power, and your kindness and friendship for him will be ever acknowledged by,

Etc.

Robert Dinwiddie, Esq.
April 26, 1758
dd to Col. Hunter

I beg leave to refer your Honor to my last letter of the 20th instant by the Anna, Captain Estin.

As I intend, with God's leave, to give you timely notice of every incident that happens in your affairs as may occur, you will be pleased for the present to be informed that when I produced your Honor's order on Colonel Peter Randolph for £171 8s 6d, he made the following objections, viz: You deduct £3 for the use of the bedsteads, etc. In the sense he understands the agreement, he insists that deduction ought to be more considerable. 2d, you charge 7s 10d for matresses and counter-pains. He says no charge was to be made for this, and Mrs. Attorney understood Mrs. Dinwiddie. 3d, you charge £50 for the chariot. He says Turnbull agreed for it, and he must pay for it.
These are his objections, and what he proposed is to give me a bill next June for £110. Turnbull must give another for £50, and the remaining sum of £11 8s 6d is to be referd to you.

Mr. Grymes will not be concerned with the harpsicord, so I have desired Colonel Hunter to make sale [of] it with the other goods.

I shall exert my best endeavors to collect and make a full remittance to your Honor by the Court of Oyer in December; if I do not do it, it shall not be my fault. If I do, it will give me a pleasure equal to the satisfaction you will receive by it. I very sincerely wish you and yours every felicity and am,

Sir,

[John Hanbury]

Virginia, June 13, 1758

dd to Col. Hunter

Sir:

I received your letter with invoice of goods by Captain Necks. When I recommended this gentleman to your service, I did not thereby intend to lay myself under any obligations. Captain Crookshankes and Captain Estin will tell you with how sincere and warm an attachment I contributed to their dispatch, and was it in my power, I woud now assist Captain Necks, whom I believe to be an honest, industrious man, but it woud be independant of my recommendation, but purely in regard to your interest.

I know there is something that may not improperly be called a commercial friendship because I feel it glowing in my own breast, which takes its rise from a long correspondance and is established by a punctual and steady integrity on both sides. I cannot charge myself with
any failure on my part. I have often said I should give your house the preference, though I have been really obliged to send a large part of my crops to other houses because I have received better prices from them. They generally have supplied me with the greatest part of my goods; and the 50 hhds of which you now complain is part of a crop of 86 hhds, 16 of which I have already received sales from Liverpoole, and Mr. Athawes has begun the sales of 20 hhds more at a price that I shall not complain. How unlucky then is it that the worst of the crop should fall to your share. I received from Mr. Athawes the sales of 20 hhds of this mark, made the year before, that cleared me £347 exclusive of the discounts, and when I consider how short the present crop is and that there cannot possibly be 15 in hhds made for export next year, it gives me uneasiness to think that my 50 hhds by Necks will not yield me a price adequate to its value, and so much less than I had the highest reason to expect. My expectation for this tobo. was not less than £800. Nay, put me out of my pain, and let me know the value of it as soon as you can.

Be pleased to send me the following particulars by the first safe opportunity.

26 pair of sash pulleys and line sufficient to hang 26 sash windows
300 lbs. of bar lead
100 of sheet do.
[ ] pair of 10-inch hinges and screws for heavy doors
[ ] pair of 10-inch do.
[12] pair of window shutter hinges
[5] pair of best brass dove tail hinges
[ ] pair of smaller do.
[ ] best locks for street doors
5 best 8-inch brass locks
3 best 6-inch do.
2 iron bound stock locks

£ 5.00.00
.08.00
.12.00
5.00.00
3.00.00
4.00.00
1.10.00
3.00.00
3.00.00
3.10.00
£30.00.00
Mr. Charles Goore

June 15, 1758

Sir:

Captain Kelly is now upon his return to you. Could diligence and a steady attention to his business have prevailed, in short, if there had been tobo., he would have had his full load. The crop next year will be still shorter. I think it impossible there should be more made for exportation next year than 15,000 hhds. Captain Kelly is able to give you a particular account. However sensibly we may feel the shortness of the crop next year, the tobo. now going to market must certainly yield any price almost that you can in reason ask. The sales of my tobo. last year by Kelly fall very short of my expectations and are greatly lower than any sales I have received for some time.

I must beg your particular care of the invoice herewith sent. The goods I received last I think are not well bought; they are not equal in goodness to the price paid for them, and two articles besides were omitted. You will receive by the Everton 20 hhds of my [ ], which I hope may yield a price equal to the expectations of,

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Quantity</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>900 yards of cotton</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>£ 56.00.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 yards of yellow cloth with lining and trimming for 3 suits of livery at 6s</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>10.10.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>3½ yards of broad and 3 yds. for Johny and Dickey with trimming, etc., 10s</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>7.00.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>5 yards superfine do. with lining and trimming, etc.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>8.00.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>16 doz. pair of Negroes' stockings</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>10.00.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>20 [lbs.] shoe and 20 [lbs.] osingbrigs thread</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>4.00.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 ps. of Irish linnen @ 3s 6d, 2 ps. do. at 3s, 2 ps. at 2s 6d, 5 ps. @ 1s 3d, and 2 p. doughlas</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>39.00.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 best bed ticks, bolsters, and pillows</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>8.00.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 gross of strong beer</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>4.10.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20 gross of best corks</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1.00.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>15,000 8d, 20,000 20d, Nails</td>
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<td></td>
<td>17.00.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20,000 10d, 20,000 6d</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 doz. broad hoes</td>
<td></td>
<td>to be large and strong</td>
<td>21.10.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 doz. narrow hoes</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
20 sack of salt 6.10.00
10 lbs. of salt petre
12 pair of strong shoes for servants 7.10.00
4 pair of shoes and 4 pair of pumps for a boy
   12 years old
The same for a boy 8 years
The same for a boy 5 years
£201.00.00

Benjamin Harrison, Esq.

June 15, 1758

Dear Sir:

Colonel Bland dd me your letter dated the 12 of June, and he has paid me the sum of sixty-eight pounds seventeen shillings and sixpence [1d] by a bill of exchange made payable to Edmund Jenings, Esq., which sum is the exact balance of the interest due upon your bond to the 10th of this month. Mr. Jenings is full of anxiety and very importunate to have the principal paid. I wish to see it accomplished for both your sakes; it would prevent my being too often troublesome to a gentleman for whom I have a sincere regard.

Ball'ce of int'st due the 10th June 1757 £18.11.01
One year's in'st to the 10th June 1758 50.06.00 £68.17.01

Robert Dinwiddie, Esq.

June 16, 1758

By the man of war

By the Speedwell, Capt. Clark

Rich. Randolph on Charles Goore, Esq. £87.05.08 Rec'd these
John Tayloe on James Buchanan, Esq. 34.10.00 bills of Mr.
Will'm Smith on Richard Smith 43.01.09 President
Wilson Cary on John Hanbury & Co. 7.10.00 Blair
Lewis Burwell on Robt. Cary & Co. 52.10.00
These are all the bills I was able to collect to remit to your Honor by this opportunity. Colonel Tayloe still makes objections to the tea table, and as he was to have credit till the next blast of his furnace, I shall not press the payment till the Court of Oyer in December.

In your account against Mr. Grymes, your Honor made a mistake of £100, the vote of the council being only £300, but as you were to wait for this money till the 2[s]/hhd revenue was in cash, I am afraid without the aid of the quitrents it will be a long time before you receive it. The balance last April in favor of the Receiver was near £1000,
and I believe next April it will be at least £2000, as we are like to make very little tobo. this year.

I had Dorinda sold at a public vendue; she sold for £56 current. I shall charge myself with £100 sterling for the others. The sale of Mr. Byrd's Negroes is fixed to the 20th of this month and credit given till December next, when I have assurance of the trustees taking up the protested bills. Southall's note of hand for £27 10s current I have received, and £46 in part of John Ball's. Mr. Turnbull tells me your Honor's order on me to Colonel Innys is £130, which shall be paid as soon as it appears.

I have received Mr. Byrd's protested exchange for £1200 and Mr. Moody's for £50, both which shall be taken care off and remittances punctually made as I receive them. I hope to settle with Mr. Womeley in a few days; and it shall not be my fault, as the utmost of my endeavors shall be imployd, and the most pressing instances used to prevail with the gentlemen to be punctual in their payments to your Honor, that I may be able to send you a full remittance in December next. With my best good wishes for Mrs. Dinwiddie and the young ladys, I remain,

Your most ob'd't h'ble serv't,

Rd. Corbin

Edmund Jenings, Esq.

June 22, 1758

By Capt. Clark

By this opportunity I shall remit to James Buchanan & Co., to be placed to your credit, a bill of exchange drawn by Richard Bland on John Bland for £68 17s, which will be in full satisfaction of the interest
due upon Colonel Harrison's bond to you to the 10th June 1758. The debt
due to you from this gentleman, and Mr. Byrd, has at times given me much
anxiety, and I cannot yet say I am easy in regard to them. I hope and
believe they will be safe at the last, though the receit of the principal
(notwithstanding promises) seems to be removed further off than it
was a year ago. The stewardship of Brafferton is confirmed by the
president and masters of the college in every respect agreeably to the
desire of Mr. Proteus. Pray remember me to my dear son. I am,
Your aff'te,
James Buchanan, Esq.
June 22, 1758
By Capt. Clark and Capt. Kelly

Inclosed is a bill of exchange drawn by Richard Bland on John Bland
and made payable to Edmund Jenings, Esq., to whose credit you will be
pleased to place it, it being in full satisfaction for the interest due
upon Harrison's bond to the 10th June 1758. I am,
Etc.
John Hanbury & Co.
June 16, 1758
By Capt. Clark

Colonel Landon Carter has drawn upon Messrs. Sydenham & Hodgeson
for two hundred pounds sterling. The bills bear date the 10th June 1758
and are made payable to his son-in-law Mr. Nelson Berkeley. He tells us
he has sufficient effects to answer his draft upon these gentlemen, but
their conduct upon some late occasions in simular instances gives him
apprehensions, least he may be served in the same manner, and as it is
part of his daughter's fortune, it woud give him great uneasiness to
have Mr. Berkeley disappointed. He desired me to mention this matter to one of my correspondents, and as there is not a house in London I more sincerely wish well too, I imbraced the occasion to afford you an opportunity of obliging this gentleman and thereby securing the bulk of his consignments, which I believe has passed through the hands of Messrs. Sydenham & Hodgeson from their first setting up.

John Robinson, Esq. 59

August 20, 1758

As you engaged to be security for Major Gains, 60 I beg leave to lay before you the minit of my agreement. He was to build and finish in the neatest and best manner a brick house with a cellar under, a single story and dormers, 52 feet by 20, which building was to be compleated and fit to receive my family in October. He was to find for this building all materials of the best sort (except bricks), and in the course of the building he was to observe and follow such instructions as he shoud receive.

The ingagement on my part was to find the bricks and pay him £200 the 25th of April last and the further sum of £6 7s 6d at a future time. The whole sum I was to pay was £206 7s 6d. I very faithfully complied with the agreement on my part. Colonel Tucker 61 paid him on my account the stipulated £200 on the 25th April.

The good opinion you entertained of this gentleman and the influence you had over him induced me to place the most unreserved confidence, that he woud have performed his engagement with a scrupleous exactness. He himself desires me to make myself easy and not suspect his fidelity and honor. How well he will support such a character in
this business the event must shew; heitherto he has almost failed and disappointed in every instance. He has not imployd one good workman, and the best that is here he cannot be certain of his stay one day. Had it not been for the shells which you procured and others that have been brought upon my own account, not one brick woud have been now laid, and even with this assistance 2/3 of the brick work woud have been now unfin-ished if it had not been for the labor of my own people. Mr. Ker and Mr. Robinson are both witnesses to this agreement; every other matter here related and several others that I think unnecessary now to mention is strictly truth. My whole dependance, therefore, is upon your inter-position, that this agreement may be punctually complied with.

[Gawin Corbin]
August 21, 1758

My dear son:

Mr. Thomas Rootes will be the bearer of this letter; he will dd it to you himself, and if he does not meet with you in London, he will make a visit to Cambridge.

I observe by your last letter that you are to continue at Cambridge till July next. After two years' stay at the Temple, I shall hope for your return to your own country, but this will depend upon incidents that may arise in the mean time.

We very sensibly feel the weight and burthen of the war and hope for some favorable circumstance to give peace to the world. We have had 16,000 men landed at Cape Briton near 2 months; they were escorted there by a large naval armament. We have been some time in expectation of the news of the surrender of the important fortress of Louisburg, but from
the length of the siege we begin to be doubtful of the event. Our armaments in the interior parts have not answered our expectations, and I believe if the wisest general the world ever saw was to command an army in the desarts of America, where he did not know or cou'd procure a good geography of the country, he woud hardly prove successful against an enimy who had this knowledge.

When you are settled at the Temple, you will have a full view of the busie scene of life and be surrounded by many and various temptations. Then will be the time to put your virtue to the trial, and then will be the time, my dear son, to call to your remembrance the care of tender parents and the instructions you have received from very able masters, that you be not ensnared by any of them. Let me recommend to you this one caution, never to run in debt or exceed the bounds of your allowance; never buy any thing without money to pay for it immediately. I am now repairing with all expedition the loss of my house, and I shall provide materials for a house for you against you arrive. Pray write to your uncle Tayloe and your uncle Gawin Corbin; they complain of your neglect. I am, my dear son, with the most anxious concern for your welfare and happiness,

Yor ind'l. and aff'te Father.

Mr. Athawes

August 22, 1758

EC A pair of stays, to the measure sent 2.10.00
A fashionable hoop petticoat 1.00.00
3 pair of neat wax leather pumps 1.10.00
1 pair of pink sattin breeded 1.00.00
2 pair of fashionable black stuff do. 1.00.00
2 pair of worstead stockings 1.00.00
3 pair of thread do.
4 pair of gloves £ 1.00.00
4 pair of mittens
2 yds. of mineonet lawn 1.00.00
A fan .10.00
6 yards of ribbon for knots .15.00
2 fashionable egretts74 .10.00
1 mask .05.00
A fashionable hat .15.00
A cheap necklace .10.00
A fashionable cap, tucker, and ruffles, etc., of mineonet lace 8.00.00
A suit of pink colourd lutestring75 made to the stays and hoop, the petticoat full long 8.00.00
A pattern76 for two gowns of fine printed linnen of diff't sorts 3.00.00
1 best octavo Bible .10.00
31.00.00

AC77 A pair of stays according to the measure sent £ 2.00.00
A fashionable hoop petticoat 1.00.00
14 yds. of plain yellow lutestring @ 5s 6d 4.10.00
A cap, tucker, and ruffles ab't £3 4.00.00
6 yds. ribbon 10.00
1 necklace, 2 egretts, a mask, fan, and hat 1.10.00
2 pair of worstead stockings and 3 pair of thread 1.00.00
1 piece of printed linnen and 2 yards of flowerd lawn 5.00.00
4 pair of leather pumps, 2 pr. of stuff, and 1 pair of silk shoes size small 5 2.00.00

ANC78 The same for a girl 12 years old79 21.10.00
6 pair of pumps for a girl of 2 years old80 2.00.00
6 pr. of lamb mittins do.
A cap for do. ab't 10s, a bonnet and 6 yards narrow ribbon

£ 76.00.00

Brought over81 £ 76.00.00

For Mrs. Corbin

A hoop petticoat for a middle-sized woman 1.00.00
A white sarsenet82 quilted petticoat to the hoop 3.00.00
A negligee of slight lutestring for the summer 8.00.00
A dark ground cotton negligee 4.00.00
1 ps. of purple and white callicoe 2.00.00
4 pr. of black stuff shoes and 2 pr. of black sattin 2.10.00
4 pr. of thread stockings, 2 pr. of worstead, and 1 pr. of white silk 2.10.00
6 pair of best kid gloves and 4 pr. of mittens 1.00.00
A flowerd lawn mob, hankerchief, and ruffles 3.10.00
4 yards of fine muslin for hankerchiefs 2.00.00
1 ps. striped dimety83 3.00.00
A warm cloak and hood 5.00.00
A hat 1.00.00
½ ps. of white and ½ ps. of black ribbon 1.00.00
½ doz. pair of best steel scissors 1.00.00
3 yds. pink colourd serge du roy with trimings for a waistcoat for a boy 2.00.00
£119.00.00

August 22, 1758

Sir:

My wife and daughters will be obliged to you for your care in buying the goods mentioned in the inclosed invoices. An accident that happened to me in March quite disconcerted my scheme of business, and Captain Clark, whom you recommended, left Virginia without any of my tobo. I hope, however, to be again soon settled, and I shall not overlook, but contribute my assistance to, any ship you send. The crops now upon the ground are so indifferent that you may be assured there will not be 15,000 hhds for export next year. I should not therefore desire you to send any ship before this time 12 month, and if you had a ship then ready to leave London to be here about the last of October, I can almost venture to say she would be loaded by Christmas.

Invoice to Messrs. Hanbury

September 1, 1758

2 ps. of cambric @ £3 10s £ 4.00.00
2 ps. do. @ £1 10s 8.00.00
2 ps. of princess linnen 3.00.00
6000 miniking84 pins, 6000 short whites, 6000 corking, 1000 needles sorted
1 lb. whitey brown85 thread, 1 lb. finer do.
2 oz. 12d, 3 oz. 18d, 4 oz. 2s, 1 oz. 8s do.
12 silk laces 4 yards long 4.00.00
2 ps. diaper tape86 8d, 2 ps. do. 10d, 2 ps. Holland do. 5d, 2 ps. do. 8d
½ serving silk
A silver-laced hat for a boy 12 years old87 and 1 plain hat
do. for a boy 8 years 88 4.10.00
do. for a boy 5 years89 1.00.00
A plain hat for my self
2 pr. worsted stockings for a boy 12 years old
4 pr. of thread do.
do. for a boy 8 years old
do. for a boy 5 years old
2 pair of fine cotton stockings for my self
2 pair of black silk do.
4 pair of dd channel pumps to be bought of John Didsbury

10 2/10 inch length
of foot, 10 round
the instep, 9½ round
the G. toe.

32.10.00

100 lbs. dd sugar
4 oz. mace, 4 oz. cinnamon, 8 oz. nutmegs, 4 oz.
cloves, 6 lbs. pepper, 4 lbs. ginger, 10 lbs.
salt petre
½ hund. raisins and ½ hund. currants in stone pots
3 lbs. Hyson and 8 lbs. Congou tea
1 ps. duroy with 6 doz. coat and 6 doz. waistcoat
buttons with silk and mohair
1 ps. of brown Holland

59.00.00

Invoice by Estin

do. dd to Col. Hunter

60 149.00.00

191 Physic

£150.00.00

In my letter by Captain Estin, I advised you of the then scarcity of tobacco, and that there could not be more than 15,000 hhd[s] made for export next year. This account I can now with truth confirm. In these circumstances of my country, give me leave to offer you my advice. I shall comprise it in a few words. I think it impossible for any single merchant in the trade to load a ship of 300 hhd[s] with the tobo. now housed and upon the ground. I woud therefore propose to you to defer sending your ships away till next September. Let them be then ready to take the advantage of the first fair wind early in that month to be in Virginia the latter part of October. The new tobo. will be then ready in part, and will be got ready in time to give your ships a dispatch equal to what the Baltimore met with last year.

The above invoice, with the invoice for physic herein inclosed, you will be pleased to send.
James Buchanan, Esq.

September 19, 1758

As I have not received a letter from you since the arrival of Captain Crookshankes and Captain Estin, in the first of which I sent you 8 hhds of tobo. and by the last 13 hhds, which I hope will meet with a good market, this just serves to inclose you a bill of exchange drawn by Francis Willis on Robert Cary & Co. for ten pounds sterling and an order of Colonel Tayloe on you for seven guineas, both of which you will be pleased to place to my credit.

I take this opportunity to recommend to your acquaintance Mr. Thomas Rootes. He is a gentleman of a good character and well acquainted with business. This is the principal motive of his going to London. If it shoud lie in your way to serve him, I believe no one woud execute any trust that shoud be reposed in him with more faithfulness and exactness. Be pleased to remember me to my dear son, and believe me with real regard to be,

Sir,

45,000 hhds will be the most for export next year.

Robert Dinwiddie, Esq.

September 20 [13], 1758

My last letter to your Honor was dated the 18th of last June and inclosed you bills of exchange to the amount of £695 17s 1d. In that letter you will be pleased to take notice that Colonel William Randolph gave me an order upon Mr. Jam[e]s Reid for £90 sterling to ballance his account. You will herewith receive Mr. Reid's exchange for that sum, drawn upon James Buchanan, Esq., which closes Colonel William Randolph's
account. Every thing in respect to your affairs remain in the same situation. The assembly meets to morrow. If I can make any further collection before the fleet sails, I shall not fail to remit whatever I receive. Mr. Wormeley and Mr. Willis both desire another year for payment of their respective bonds. They intend to write to you upon this subject. This moment I was informed by one of Mr. Byrd's trustees that they could not pay off his protested bills till next April. Colonel Tayloe waits for the blast of the furnace, and Mr. Grymes says he does not know when the 2[E]/hhd revenue will be in cash to pay the vote of council. Strong assurances, when I wrote to you last, was made to me, that I had hopes of receiving and making a large if not a full remittance by the Court of Oyer in December, and it shall not be my fault if it is not done. I foresee a good deal of difficulty, but the utmost of my endeavors and the most pressing instances shall be used to accomplish it by,

Sir,

Edmund Jenings, Esq.

November 6, 1758

In my letter of the 22 June, by Captain Clark, you were advised of my remitting to James Buchanan, Esq., & Co. a bill of exchange drawn by Richard Bland on John Bland for £68 17s, which is in full satisfaction of the interest due upon Harrison's bond to the 10th day of last June. The many promises made by this gentleman, which have been constantly communicated to you, the receipt of the principal might be now expected, but this expectation, as I advised you in the letter above mentioned, seems to be further removed than it was some time ago, and compulsory methods, I fear, must at length be used.
The interest upon Byrd's bond, Thornton's bonds, and Wromeley's annuity will be remitted in bills of exchange to Mr. Jam[e]s Buchanan & Co. to be placed to your credit, and upon these gentlemen I shall draw, as I did last year, for £85 payable to Mrs. Randolph, to be charged to your account, for the interest of your father's legacy to her. Upon the subject of this legacy, you will give me leave to (propose to you an expedient that will be a security to you, satisfactory to your sister, and agreeable to Mr. Randolph, who must be consequentially concern'd for the interest of his children) transmit to you a transcript of Mr. Randolph's thoughts to me aboute it in the following words: "I think it woud be proper in case of your death and for the security of the legacy given to my children to propose an expedient which may answer these purposes and not be dissatisfactory to Mr. Jenings. It is that a bill in Chancery be brought against you as trustee of the aforesaid legacy in behalf of my wife and children in order to retain out of Mr. Jenings' money in your hands the amount of the legacy given, to be settled for the purposes intended by the will. This Mr. Jenings cannot object to, for he may be indemnified thereby, more especially if he is made a defendant to the bill, for as all the parties will be before the court, their decree will secure Mr. Jenings' estate from any future demand which may be made against it, in case the sum settled under the decree here shoud be placed on a bad security." These thoughts of Mr. Randolph are submitted to your consideration, and if I coud procure the payment of Colonel Harrison's bond and add £200 of that principal to the £1500 due from Colonel Byrd, his trustees will all become securities for the payment according to the directions of your father's will, and this security to be taken under the sanction of a decree in Chancery, will, I
imagine, be a sufficient security to you as heir at law and executor, and an indemnification to me as a trustee. The affairs committed to my charge by your father and self has been heitherto executed with the same anxious care and concern as if they were my own, and this care and concern will [I shall still] continue to the end of my life [as long as I am able], but as my health has been some time impaired, and least an accident to me might be injurious to you, I should be glad to have some person joined with me, or at least a conditional power to act in case of my death.

James Buchanan, Esq., & Co.

November 8, 1758

Col. Hunter

Dup'c'e by M'[T]aggart  á Poto'k

You will receive here inclosed bills of exchange as noted underneath to the amount of £225 to be placed to the credit of Mr. Jenings's account, and I have drawn upon you for £85 in two sets of exchange, one for £42 6s 6d, the other for £42 13s 6d, both of this date and payable to Mrs. Ariana Randolph, it being for one year's interest of her father's legacy due to her 25 last month, which you will be pleased to charge to the account of Edmund Jenings, Esq., of which he is advised by, I am,

Sirs,

Your, etc.
8 Nov. Wormeley on Hanbury for £100.00.00 for his annuity

Tayloe on Buchanan & Co. 12.04.01 Int'st Thornton's bond
Boyd on Calloway 37.15.11
Turnbull on Buchanan &
Co. 75.00.00 do. Byrd's bond
£225.00.00

Edmund Jenings, Esq.
November 8, 1758
Col. Hunter

Dup'c'e by M'[T]aggart 98 á Poto'k

This just serves to advise you that I have remitted by this opportunity to Jam[es] Buchanan, Esq., & Co., several bills of exchange as noted underneath to the amount of £225 to be placed to your credit, and I have drawn upon them for £85 in two sets of exchange, one for £42 6s 6d, the other for £42 13s 6d, both payable to your sister Randolph for one year's interest of her father's legacy due 25th last month, which I have directed to be charged to your account. Upon the subject of this legacy I refer you to my letter of the 6th instant and am,

Dear sir,

Wormeley on Hanbury £100.00.00 for his annuity to 15 Oct. 1758

Tayloe on Jam[es] Buchanan & Co. 12.04.01 In full for interest due upon Thornton's bond to 25 Oct. 1758
Boyd on Galloway 37.15.11
Turnbull on Jam[es] Buchanan & Co. 75.00.00 In full for interest due upon Byrd bond to the 16 Oct. 1758
Messrs. Hill, Lamar & Hill

Merchants in Madeira

November 10, 1758
York River, Virginia

The obstruction our trade to Madeira has met with since the late act of Parliament has rendered it difficult to have even a letter conveyed thither. I am glad, therefore, to embrace this opportunity to desire you to send me annually one pipe of the best wine, for which you are to value yourselves upon Messrs. Capel & Osgood Hanbury. As I shall place full confidence in your choice, I hope it will always prove satisfactory to,

Gentlemen,

Yours, etc.

Robert Dinwiddie, Esq.

November 8, 1758

Col. Hunter

Dup'c'e by M'Taggart à Potom'k

This just serves to inclose you a few bills of exchange as noted underneath, which is all I have received since the last remittance to you. I have hopes of receiving something considerable at the Court of Oyer in December, but being often disappointed and many promises made and not complied with makes me doubt of their punctuality at that time; however, no endeavors of mine shall be wanting, and the most pressing instances shall be made use of. As I know not by what conveyance this goes, I have only to assure you of my best wishes for yours and family's prosperity.
Thos. Boynton's bill on Montgomery rec'd of J. Blair $68.11.00
R. Corbin on J. Buchanan rec'd of J. Randolph 42.06.06
R. Burwell on R. Cary & Co. rec'd of Rob. Burwell 74.00.00
Wormeley on Hanburys rec'd of Moody 50.00.00
Moody on Cary & Co. rec'd of Moody 5.15.08
Cunningham on Knox rec'd of John Blair 8.01.06

Messrs. Capel & Osgood Hanbury

December 30, 1758

I received your letter of the 12th September last with account of sales of 50 hhds of my [ ] that were conveyed to you by the King of Prussia, Captain Necks, in 1757. But you say nothing of my 6 hhds [ ] that went by the same ship, the sales of which are yet to be rendered; and least these six hhds, through the hurry of business, shoud have escaped your notice, I beg leave here to inclose you an invoice of them, and if you will be pleased to look at the bill of lading, you will find these six hhds enumerated in the same bill with the 50 hhds [ ].

It gives me concern that the recaptors of the Anna shoud give you so much trouble. I hope by this time all the difficulties are removed and this affair brought to a conclusion. I had 30 hhds on board, 17 hhds [ ] consigned to you and 13 of other marks consigned to Mr. Buchanan for the use of my son.

In my letter by Estin (an extract of which was sent to you by Captain Whiting) I desired you to procure me 1200 ells of osingbrig and 3 pieces of blanketing duffle, which I shall expect to receive with the other goods ordered by,

Sirs,

Your most h'ble serv't,

Rd. Corbin
The Rev. Mr. Beilby Porteus

January 1, 1759

Extract of letter of this date.

I have wrote to a friend to inquire aboute yor land in Charles County.

The lands, etc., at Newbottle may be worth £600 and the Negroes £1200. To procure title deeds for Mr. Edward Porteus.

As Mr. Buchanan's house still continues, my son will be supplied from thence as usual, unless he has an inclination for any other house.

29 March

Brother's widow living. Newbottle rather under rated. To send E. Porteus title deeds and answer his letter circumstantially.

Mr. James Semple

January 1, 1759

As it will be necessary to say something to you and to suggest to you my thoughts upon the business you have undertaken, I shall endeavor to be particular and circumstantial.

1st. The care of Negroes is the first thing to be recommended, that you give me timely notice of their wants, that they may be provided with all necessaries. The breeding wenches more particularly you must instruct the overseers to be kind and indulgent too, and not force them, when with child, upon any service or hardship that will be injurious to them; and that they have every necessary when in that condition that is needful for them, and the children to be well looked after, and to give them every spring and fall the Jerusalem oak seed for a week together, and that none of them suffer in time of sickness for want of proper
care. Observe a prudent and a watchful conduct over the overseers, that they attend their business with diligence, keep the Negroes in good order, and enforce obedience by the example of their own industry, which is a more effectual method in every respect of succeeding and making good crops than hurry and severity. The ways of industry are constant and regular, not to be in a hurry at one time and do nothing at another, but to be always usefully and steadily employed. A man who carries on business in this manner will be prepared for every incident that happens. He will never be in confusion himself, and his business, instead of a labor, will be a pleasure to him.

2d. Next to the care of Negroes is the care of stock, and supposing the necessary care taken, I shall only here mention the use to be made of them for the improvement of the tobo. grounds. Let them be constantly and regularly penned; let the size of the pens be 1000 tobo. hills for 100 cattle, and so in proportion for a greater or less quantity, and the pens moved once a week. By this practice steadily pursued, a convenient quantity of land may be provided at Moss's Neck without clearing, and as I intend this seat of land to be a settlement for one of my sons, I would be very sparing of the woods; and that piece of woods that lies on the left hand of the ferry road must not be cut down upon any account. A proper use of the cattle will answer every purpose of making tobo. without the destruction too commonly made of the timbered land, and as you will see this estate once a fortnight, you may easily discover if they have been neglectful of pening the cattle and moving the cowpens.

Take an exact account of all the Negroes and stocks at each plantation and send to me; and though once a year may be sufficient to take
this account, yet it will be advisable to see them once a month at least, as such an inspection will fix more closely the overseers' attentions to these points.

As complaints have been made by the Negroes in respect to their provision of corn, I must desire you to put that matter under such a regulation as your own prudence will dictate to you. The allowance, to be sure, is plentiful, and they ought to have their belly full, but care must be taken with this plenty that no waiste is committed. You must let Hampton know that the care of the Negroes' corn, sending it to mill, always to be provided with meal, that every one may have enough, and that regularly and at stated times, is a duty as much incumbent upon him as any other.

As the corn at Moss's Neck is always ready money, it will not be advisable to be at much expence in raising hogs. The shattered corn will probably be enough for this purpose. When I receive your account of the spare corn at Mosses Neck and Richland, which I hope will be from King and Queen Court, I shall give orders to Colonel Tucker to send for it.

Let me be acquainted with every incident that happens, and let me have timely notice of every thing that is wanted, that it may be provided. To imploy the fall and the winter well is the foundation of a successful crop in the summer; you will therefore animate the overseers to great diligence, that their work may be in proper forwardness and not have that to do in the spring that ought to be done in the winter. There is business sufficient for every season of the year, and to prevent the work of one season from interfering with the work of another depends upon the care of the overseer.
The time of sowing tobo. seed, the order the plant patch ought to be in, and the use of the wheat straw, etc., I have not touchd upon, it being too obvious to be overlooked.

Supposing the corn now laid by and the tobo. ripe for housing: To cut the corn tips and gather the blades in proper time is included under the care of cattle, their preservation in the winter depending upon good fodder. I shall therefore confine myself [to] tobo. Tobo. hhds shoud always be provided the 1st week in September. Every morning of that month is fit for striking and striping; every morning, therefore, of this month, they shoud strike as much tobo. as they can strip whilst the dew is upon the ground, and what they strip in the morning must be stemd in the evening; this method constantly practiced, the tobacco will be all prised before Christmas, weigh well, and at least one hhd in ten gained by finishing the tobo. thus early.

You shall never want either for my advise or assistance. These instructions will hold good for Poplar Neck and Portobacco and perhaps Spotsylvania, too.

I now send my two carpenters Mack and Abram to Mosses Neck to build a good [ ], mend up the quarters, and get as many staves and heading as will be sufficient for next year's tobo. hhds; I expect they will compleat the whole that is necessary upon that estate by the last of March.
2 hand saw files
da wimble bit
2 inch augers
da gough
x cut file
2 nar inch chiseles
2 inch and ½ do.
da drawing knife
crow and crow stock
da cowper's ax
2 do. adzes
1 hammer

Edmund Jenings, Esq.

March 16, 1759

You advise me in your last of Harrison's bills being protested. I have not yet received them as the Supply, Captain Downs, was taken and all the letters on board distroyd; I imagine Harrison's protested bills were among them. I wish you had sent duplicates of protest because if 18 months elapses before they come to hand and notice given within that time, the damage after is only 5 percent; you will be pleased to hasten duplicates of protest, that I may have it settled.

The debt due to you from this gentleman you have long wished and I have long desired to see fully satisfied. The strongest assurances made by him, the most pressing instances made by me, has heitherto been without effect. Indeed, disappointments so repeatedly continued determined me to recourse to the last remedy; but the high price now offerd for tobacco has induced me to wait one year longer, and in that time, from the hopes and present prospect of the ensuing crop, he may make, if he pleases, the desired payment.

The inclosed letter will afford you the best information I can procure of your right and interest in the copper mine. I am told it will require aboute £300 to make another essay, but I am inteirely unskilled and incapable of advising in a matter of this sort; your father, I
remember, was very sanguine for another trial. The success of it will very much depend upon the skill and integrity of the person imploidy.

As Mr. James Buchanan's death occasions no alteration in the matter of business, and as great punctuality has been observed, my son will as usual be supplied from that house. I think next June is the time agreed upon by you and Mr. Porteus for his removal to the Temple. Here, dear sir, he will be without those guides and those checks he found at Cambridge; here I must more particularly rely upon your care. This will be the touchstone of that friendship which, as I ever sincerely professed, I hope you will evidence to my dear son, both for his own sake and that of,

Dear sir,
Your aff' te kinsman,
R.C.

Capel & Osgood Hanbury

March 29, 1759

Via Bristol, by Capt. Wright

My son is desired to make choice of a watch for his sister, for which purpose I have instructed him to apply to you for £40, which you will be pleased to let him have on my account.

Tobo. sells here in the country at the rate of £20 per hhd; this price will tempt most people to sell the little tobo. they have made.

I wish you may have a ship in York aboute the last of October; the new tobo. will probably be ready and good dispatch given.
Robert Dinwiddie, Esq.

April 11, 1759

Via Bristol, by Capt. Thomas

The foregoing are copies of what I wrote to your Honor. I wish I had been more successful in my collection. Not a single penny have I received since the 8th of November last. The Speaker\textsuperscript{121} has promised to satisfie his protested bills this month, and the rest give me assurance of doing the same some time in the year.

The following bills came to my hands the 8th of this instant only. I find the 18 months is expired upon some and near expiring upon all.

C. Carter on Bacon & Co. \hspace{1cm} £400.00.00
B. Grymes on do. \hspace{1cm} 200.00.00
A Churchill on do. for \hspace{1cm} 324.00.07
H. Lee on Knox \hspace{1cm} 78.00.00
Wm. Fielder on John Atkinson \hspace{1cm} 30.00.00
R. Lee on Wm. Campbell \hspace{1cm} 73.08.08
G. Braxton on John Maynard \hspace{1cm} 200.00.00

These bills shall be taken care of with the others in my possession, and a full and particular detail of all matters shall be transmitted to you by the first ship to London. I am,

Sir,

Your most obed't servant.

James Buchanan & Co.

March 29, 1759

Via Bristol, by Capt. Wright

Mr. Randolph\textsuperscript{122} has given orders for a coach and instructed the maker to apply to you for the money; to obtain credit with you, he has supposed it necessary for me to assure of a remittance of £85 next October. This assurance I can and do make you with great confidence, and
it shall be my care to see it complied with. I have just received my account current with the sales of my tobo. by the Saint George and Baltimore. I think you were a little too hasty in the sales of this latter tobo. The ballance due to me from Mr. Buchanan ought at least to be applied for my benefit. The difference of the bonded duties upon these 8 hhds will be upwards of £20.

My son will be supplied as usual from your house, and every instance of your regard for him will be considered as an obligation upon,

Etc.

Messrs. Hill, Lamar & Hill
April 11, 1759
Virginia, York River

My last to you was dated the 10th of November last. The contents of it was to desire you to send me a pipe of the best madeira and to value yourselves upon Messrs. Capel & Osgood Hanbury. This request you will be pleased annually to comply with.

In consequence of my former letter, I have daily expectation of receiving a pipe of good wine, and I must intreat the favor of you to take the first opportunity after the receit of this to send me another, togethers with a quarter cask of malmsey. I am,

Gentlemen, etc.

Capel & Osgood Hanbury, Esq.
April 12, 1759

By Ward, who saild the last of July

The sales of my 50 hhds [  ]\textsuperscript{123} by the King of Prussia in 1757 came
to my hands in December last. I am also to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 26 December covering the sales of my 43 hhds by the Baltimore in 1758. The proceeds of these tobos. fall very short of my expectations and are so much inferior to Mr. Athawes that I have 40s per hhd more from him without the discounts than I have from you with that allowance. To what can this great difference be imputed? The quality and weights of the tobo. was equal and the growth of the same estate. Circumstances of this nature have so often happened and been so often mentioned to you without effect that I shall forbear troubling you any further upon this head.

There is another matter I am urged to suggest to you. It is the business of insurance. To insure without orders can never be justified and ought never to be allowed. The regularity of business depends upon the punctual and exact observation of orders. In March 1757 I wrote to you for 100 stand of arms for King and Queen County and desired them to be insured; the 13 June in the same year I desired you to insure me £400 only upon the King of Prussia. Captain Necks. In the course of our correspondance, from the year 1750 to this day, you never received any other orders [letters] from me upon the business of insurance; every charge, therefore, of insurance within that period, whether it be inserted in the invoice or account current (except the 100 stand of arms and the £400 by Necks) is irregular.

I find myself charged within this period for the following articles of insurance:

Insurance of goods, by Osgood in 1754 £6.01.00
do. by Paterson in 1755 8.19.00
do. by Lane in 1756 13.07.10
I am led into a revisal of these matters from an article of credit in my account of sales of 43 hhds by the Baltimore; you there credit me "by the insurers for tobo. damaged £41.07.10." The ship is undoubtedly answerable to me for this damage, but not the insurers. There was not an underwriter in London, not even yourself, knew I had any tobo. in the Baltimore before she arrived.

The Baltimore and Anna both came into the capes togethers, and both were expected to sail about the same time. If I shoud then be charged with insurance by the Baltimore (that I never ordered) and who arrived safe and sufferd to bear my loss in the Anna, who was taken, it will have an odd appearance.

I hope my account current will set all these matters right and remove every suspicious circumstance. That the honor and credit which I have heitherto experienced from your house may be more substantially confirmed and no interruption given to that correspondance which has continued for so many years is the sincere desire of,

Sir,

Your most h'ble serv't.

Philip Grymes, Esq.

April 10, 1759

Inclosed is a list of protested bills of your indorsing which reached my hands only last Sunday. They were sent by the Supply, Captain Downs, who being taken, is the occasion of my not receiving them sooner. I thought it necessary to give you this early information, and, if it suits your conveniency, Mr. Ker is instructed to settle the whole business. I am, with great regard,
Sir,

Your most obed't.

James Buchanan & Co.

April 26, 1759

This just serves to inclose you bills of exchange to the amount of £191 14s 6d as noted underneath, which you will be pleased to negotiate and carry to my credit.

As I am not well acquainted with Mr. Joseph Davenport, the drawer of one of the bills, if there should be a failure of payment and the bill suffered to be protested, I shall have no other remedy but your attaching his effects in his brother's hands. I mention this by way of caution; I hope there will be no occasion to make use of it; so it is left to you[r] prudence by,

Sirs,

Your most h'ble serv't.

Taylor on Buchanan £ 50.00.00

Davenport on Polhill, Davenport & Co. 62.17.10

Jackson on Gale 78.16.08

By the Fly, Capt. Kelly, inclosed to Goore, and the Carter Frigate, Capt. Payne

£191.14.06

Robert Dinwiddie, Esq.

May 7, 1759

My last letters to your Honor bore date the 11th and 13 April, to which be pleased to be refered. I have since received the inclosed bills amounting to £700, which are in part of payment of the protested bill of Mr. Byrd's for £1000, inclosed by Mr. Page. What success I may meet with at the Court of Oyer in June you shall be then informed, and what further collection may be then made shall be immediately remitted.
to you. My hopes of making a more satisfactory collection at that time prevents my being more particular now. With a tender of my best affections to Mrs. Dinwiddie and the young ladies, I remain, with sincere regard,

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1756</td>
<td>Wm. Byrd's bill indorsed by M[.] Page on James Buchanan</td>
<td>£1000.00.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 June</td>
<td>Charge of protest and interest from the date to the 28 April, 1759 @ 10 percent</td>
<td>£288.10.07</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Bills now remitted to you</td>
<td>£1288.10.07</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Due this 28 April, 1759 with 10 percent in't from that time</td>
<td>£700.00.00</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1st bills by the Carter Frigate, Capt. Payne</td>
<td>£588.10.07</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2d bills by Capt. Peterson</td>
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Robert Dinwiddie, Esq.

Williamsburg

June 14, 1759

This just serves to inclose you the several bills of exchange noted underneath, which I hope will meet with due honor.

- Bernard Moore on Athawes: £85.00.00
- A. Churchill, B. and P. Grymes on Bacon: £377.05.08
- Chs. Carter, Jr., B. and P. Grymes on do.: £465.04.03

By the Fair American, 1st Bills

Capt. Thompson

James Russel, Esq. 128

May 21, 1759

By Capt. Payne

Colonel P. Lee 129 communicated to me your resolution of sending a
ship into Rappahannock this fall, to be under the command of Captain Wiles, who has been likewise acquainted with it; in consequence whereof, he is soliciting his friends and using his endeavors to procure a freight for her against she arrives, and as there is a probability of early crops, I have no doubt of his success. I think a ship of 300 hhds would be sufficient for the first essay. The captain himself will write to you by this opportunity.

A long and constant correspondance with other houses will, for the present, prevent my consignments being considerable. I shall begin a correspondance which mutual advantages will render lasting, and in the course of business you will experience and let that evidence the sincerity of,

D'r sir,
Yor most h'ble serv't.

Edmund Jenings, Esq.
June 12, 1759
By Col. William Randolph

It is more than a year since I had a letter from you, and Harrison's bill on Lidderdale & Co. of Bristol for £70 and also his bill on Lidderdale & Co. of London for £84, which you informed me were protested, I have not yet received. You ought, my friend, to have sent duplicates of protest, because if the protest does not arrive within 18 months, the 10 percent ceases after that period. Of this I advised you in a former letter; one year's interest upon his bond is now due, but I cannot well settle that till I receive a copy of the protested bills; I hope I shall receive them by the fleet, and I believe it will not be amiss if you again write to this gentleman and let him know you have
given me possitive instructions to put his bond in suit if it is not fully satisfied.

   Aboute this time I imagine you are fixing my son at the Temple. Here, my dear friend, I must beg your particular care and attention and that you will be pleased to let me hear more frequently from you.

   I shall be glad to introduce the bearer, Colonel William Randolph, to your acquaintance. He is in a hurry, which forbids me to add more than,

Etc.

Messrs. Capel & Osgood Hanbury

June 14, 1759

   Some time ago I wrote to Messrs. Hill, Lamar & Hill to send me annually one pipe of wine and draw upon you for the value of it, but as I am not satisfied with the proceedings of these gentlemen, I must desire you to forbear paying any bills of theirs upon my account without being first advised thereof by,

Mr. John Backhouse

June 20, 1759

By Capt. Ward

   I am to acknowledge the receit of your letter by Captain Ward, with invoice of goods and sales of my tobo. by the Otway. Notwithstanding the scarcity of tobo. and the high price it bore here, Captain Ward tells me he shall be loaded and ready to sail in aboute three weeks. Next year I hope the trade will fall again into its old channel, and we shall expect to see Captain Twentyman in the Monmouth at his usual time aboute April next, by whom you will be pleased to send the goods
mentioned underneath. You may be assured of my endeavors to contribute
to his dispatch whenever she arrives, being with much truth,

Sir,

Your most h'ble serv't.

3 ps. of Irish linnen @ 3s 6d £15.00.00
4 ps. do @ 3s 15.00.00
3 ps. @ 1s 3d 7.00.00
2 ps. doullass 6.00.00
20 bags of salt 6.00.00
4 gross of ale 13.00.00
1 doz. pair of men's large shoes for serv'ts 3.00.00 £65.00.00

Edmund Jenings, Esq.
June 25, 1759
By Capt. Ward

Inclosed to the care of Mr. Backhouse

I wrote to you a few days ago by Colonel Randolph, since which I have seen Colonel Harrison and settled with him his protested bills (though I had not received them) and the interest upon his bond. I thought it would be more agreable to you to act in this manner than to wait for the uncertain arrival of the protests. In consequence of this settlement, I have remitted his bills to Messrs. James Buchanan & Co. for £227 7s 10d, seventy pounds whereof I have instructed them to place to my credit for my legacy and contingent charges and the remaining sum of £157 7s 10d to be carried to your credit and paid to your order.

Thus, sir, you will be satisfied for Colonel Harrison's protested bills and the interest upon his bond to the 10th June of 1759.

When I remitted to Messrs. Buchanan & Co. last October Wromeley's annuity, the interest of Byrd's bond, and Thornton's, I directed them to pay the interest of your sister's legacy, which I hope is complied with.
I must now acquaint you in what manner I have digested your business in my own mind, and if I can accomplish it, as I expect to do in October, your affairs here will be in as good a situation as you can wish. I propose to receive of Colonel Harrison, and he has engaged to pay me next October, two hundred pounds. This sum and Mr. Byrd's bond for £1500 will make up your sister's legacy of £1700. This sum I shall lodge in the hands of Mr. Byrd's trustees, who are to be securities for the annual payment of £85 to your sister for her life, and after her death the principal to be disposed off as your father has directed by his will. Instruments of writing for this purpose are to be recorded in our General Court. The business of your sister's legacy being thus adjusted, your own affairs will stand in this manner:

Harrison's bond, after £200 is paid, is to be renewed for £806, with Burwell Bassett for his security.

Colonel Thornton and Tayloe's bond £1000

Wormeley's annuity for £100 per annum for your life.

The interest of these bonds (for the principal cannot now be got) you may expect, as well as the annuity, to be punctually paid every October. The business thus disposed will be rendered easy, and the accident of death that may happen to me will be no inconvenience to you.

After this circumstantial relation of your own affairs, you will give me leave here to mention my dear son. I imagine he is now settled at the Temple; your care and particular attention to him at this place I have desired in former letters. In regard to his instruction, should he not be acquainted with clerkship and the practical part of the law? Would not a master proper for this instruction be necessary? I refer the matter intirely to you, as I am well assured from your friendship
that your desire of his welfare and prosperity is almost equal to that of,

Dear sir,

Your sincerely aff'te.

Robert Dinwiddie, Esq.

June 25, 1759

By Capt. Ward

Inclosed to the care of Mr. Backhouse

In my letter of the 7th May, I remitted to you the following bills of exchange:

James Clark on Arch'd Buchanan £400.00.00
Charles Turnbull on And. Buchanan 150.00.00
do. on Joseph Farril & Co. 150.00.00

£700.00.00

These bills are in part of satisfaction for Mr. Byrd's protested exchange for £1000 indorsed by Mr. Page; the 1st bills were sent by Captain Payne, the 2d by Captain Peterson, and I hope they will be duly honord.

In my last of the 14th instant by the Fair American, Captain Thompson, I sent you the following bills:

Bernard Moore on Athawes £85.00.00 in part of £100 for the coach bought by G. Braxton.

A. Churchill, P. and B. Grymes on Bacon 377.05.08 in satisfaction of their respective protests

C. Carter, P. and B. Grymes on do. 465.04.03

The 2d bills come by this opportunity, which I likewise hope may be punctually paid.
It gives me concern to make you these partial remittances, though it is not in my power to do more. I have been very importunate and very urgent, in consequence whereof repeated promises are made and time after time appointed for the payment, but to no purpose. I have no expectations of receiving or making any further remittances to your Honor before next October and the close of this year.

I have been the more solicitous and the more pressing to adjust your affairs and bringing them to a final period, as it is the only evidence in my power to give you of my esteem and regard.

Inclosed is an account of bills and bonds now due to you, which will set the whole before you in one view. Our affectionate complements wait upon Mrs. Dinwiddie and the young ladys, and every kind office you are pleased to do my son will only add to the obligations already conferr’d on,

Etc.

Mr. Athawes
June 25, 1759
By Capt. Ward
Inclosed to the care of Backhouse, and copy by Gawin

Inclosed is a bill of exchange drawn by Mr. Joseph Davenport on Messrs. Polhill, Davenport & Co. for £157 6d, which you will be pleased to receive and carry to the credit of my account.

Captain Clerk, from the difficulty of freight, has procured a freight for Barbadoes. Upon his return, I hope our new tobo. will be ready to give him dispatch. Besides his own ship that he will have to load, he has purchased a ship from Booth. I understand you are interested
in her; this will be a sufficient motive for me to give my best assistance. My wife and daughters will, I believe, again trouble you with their invoices, and their desires I beg you to comply with. I am, with much truth,

Sir,

Your most h'ble serv't.

Messrs. Hill, Lamar & Hill

June 23, 1739

I received your letter of the 29th of last March by the Nancy, Captain Blake. In this letter you send me a bill of loading for one pipe of wine, for which you have valued yourselves upon Messrs. Hanburys for £29 3s, and before this, I make no doubt, you have received the money, but what is become of the wine? Captain Blake declares and Colonel Tucker asserts it was never shipped. A conduct so extraordinary surprises me. I have wrote to Messrs. Hanburys upon this occasion and have instructed them to pay no more bills of yours upon my account without being first advised of it by me. Of these instructions I thought it necessary that you shoud have notice, that you may not have the same reason to complain as,

Gentlemen,

Your most h'ble serv't.

My letter to Messrs. Hanburys bears date the 14th June, and I wish this may arrive to you in time to prevent your suffering any inconvenience.
Messrs. Buchanan & Co.

June 25, 1759

By Ward

Inclosed to Mr. Backhouse, and copy by Gawin

   Inclosed is a bill of exchange drawn by Benjamin Harrison on John Bland, amounting to £227 7s 10d, which you will be pleased to receive and carry seventy pounds thereof to the credit of my account, and the remaining sum of one-hundred-and-fifty-seven pounds, seven shillings, and ten pence you are to place to the credit of Mr. Jenings.

   It is some time since I received a letter from my son. As I imagine he is not settled at the Temple, he will have more frequent opportunities of writing. I shall be obliged to you for every instance of your regard to him. My thanks are due, and you will be pleased to let Mrs. Buchanan know how just a sense I have of her kindness to him. I am very sincerely,

   Gentlemen,

   Your, etc.

170.00.00 to be placed to the credit of R. Corbin

157.07.10 to the credit of Ed. Jenings

1 gross porter
30 gallons in cask
1 hund. dd Gloster cheese
30 gallons of vinegar

Messrs. Hanburys

June 25, 1759

By Ward

Inclosed to the care of Backhouse, and copy by Gawin

   When I receive my account current, which I daily expect, it will
give me pleasure to find it justly and fairly stated. I have in former letters imparted to you my sentiments upon this head. Nothing material has since occurred. Our crops, short as they were last year, will be far from being large this; however, there is no forming a judgment with any certainty at present. If any thing appears worth your notice, I will impart it to you.

You will receive herewith an invoice for goods. I must rely upon your care in the purchase and conveyance of them to me by the first good and safe opportunity.

I beg leave to trouble [you] with the inclosed bill of exchange drawn by Mr. Joseph Davenport on Polhill, Davenport & Co. for £848 2s, which you will be pleased to receive and carry to the credit of,

Gentlemen,

Your most humble serv't.

1759 invoice to Messrs. Hanburys

By Capt. Ward

Inclosed to Mr. Hanbury

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Quantity</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>80 men's fearnothing jackets, large and well sown</td>
<td>139</td>
<td>£ 35.00.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20 large boys do. and 200 yards of the best cotton</td>
<td></td>
<td>11.00.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18 doz. pair of Negroes' stockings</td>
<td></td>
<td>13.00.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 pieces of blanket duffle</td>
<td></td>
<td>45.00.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1200 ells of osingbrigs</td>
<td></td>
<td>2.10.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 pieces of princes linen</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20 lbs. of shoe thread and 20 lbs. osingbrigs thread</td>
<td></td>
<td>4.00.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20,000 8[d], 20,000 10d, 20,000 20d, and 20,000 4d nails</td>
<td></td>
<td>20.00.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 doz. large strong broad hoes and 8 doz. rolling do.</td>
<td></td>
<td>20.00.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 doz. nar. axes and ½ doz. broad axes and ½ doz. handsaws</td>
<td></td>
<td>6.00.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 cooper's adzes, 2 cooper's axes, and 2 carpenter's adzes</td>
<td></td>
<td>1.00.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 handsaws, 3 doz. scifters, 1 doz. grind stones, ½ doz. curry combs and brushes</td>
<td></td>
<td>5.10.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

£163.00.00
4 oz. mace, 4 oz. cin., 8 oz. nut'gs., 6 lbs. pepper, 4 lbs. ginger, ½ hund. raisins and ½ hund. currants in stone pots 5.00.00
4 lbs. Hyson and 8 lbs. Congou tea to be bought of Catonic 10.00.00
1 case of pickles to consist of oil, mangoes, capers, walnuts, anchovies, and olives 4.00.00
24 loaves of dd refined sugar 10.00.00
4 pair of dd chanel pumps to be bought of Didsbury 140 21.00.00
10 2/10 inch length foot
10 round instep
9½ round G. toe
4 pr. of pumps and 4 pr. shoes for a well-grown boy of 12 years 7.00.00
do. for a boy 8 years, do. for a boy 6 years, and 6 pr. pumps for 2 years 3.10.00
2 pr. of men's black silk, 2 pr. B. worstead, 2 pr. cotton, and 4 pr. of brown thread stockings 3.10.00
2 pr. of worstead and 4 pr. of thread for a boy 12 years old 3.10.00
6 pr. of white gloves for a boy 12, do. for 8, and do. for 6 years, 2 pr. buckskin 1.10.00
1 pr. of doe skin breeches for a boy 12 years 1.10.00
do. for a boy 8 years old 4.10.00
3 pr. of buckskin do. for servants 3.10.00
1 ps. of duroy with 6 doz. coat and 6 doz. vest buttons with silk, mohair, etc. 3.10.00
1 ps. of brown Holland and 1 ps. of check linnen 8.00.00
1 plain hat for myself, 1 silver laced for a boy 12 years, do. 8, do. 6 5.10.00
3 livery hats laced for servants 3½ yds. of broad cloth abt. 12s per yard, with buttons and trimming 5.10.00
3 yards do.
5 yds. of superfine bd. cloth with lining, etc., shamy leather for breeches, 12 yds. yellow cloth @ 7s, with mohair silk and thread, 50 yards yellow plains, 1 gross w. coat mettle, 1 do. waistcoat buttons 27.10.00

£258.10.00

Mr. Edward Porteus

July 3, 1759

I have delayed to answer your letter of the 20th of August last because I was willing to send you those original papers which you desired me to procure for you. After many months' fruitless search, I have been
only able to discover some bills and answers in Chancery relative to the New Bottle estate, which appear to me of no great moment. No person now pretends to controvert your father's title. It is indisputable in the length of possession only, even supposing the original deeds lost, or, which is more probable, burnt in the Capitol, so I think you may be quite easie upon that head.

To fix a value upon this estate at a future period is difficult. In respect to the land, it cannot alter much; it will sell equally well three or four years hence, but I can hardly think it will raise six hundred pounds sterling. The Negroes and stock, if they were now to be sold, would, I believe, raise £1200. Their value 3 or 4 years hence will a good deal depend upon the circumstances of the times and more particularly upon the importation of slaves. If the importation shoud be small, their value may be more; if large, less. The present tenants woud be glad to throw up their lease; they have lost at least £30 a year; but the same motive that woud persuade them to give it up must be a very strong one with you to suffer it to run out its term. You may rest satisfied of every service in my power; your brother's kindness to my son demands it of me. I constantly send every fall to see that the Negroes are well cloathed and taken care off, and this I shall continue to do to the end of the lease. When this is expired, you may be assured of my best assistance in the sale of the estate. The rent, I have no doubt, will be punctually paid at the time agreed. Should the least appearance of a failure happen, let me have immediate notice.

The last settlement made by Mr. Smith with Prior I knew nothing off when I setled with Prior. When I received it from Mr. Smith, I found there was a mistake, of which I advised your father, but I have not been able to do any thing with Prior, and it is to little purpose to try.
I have supposed a value upon this estate in consequence only of your desire; you cannot place any certain dependance upon it. I have endeavor[d] to fix it at a medium; it may sell for a good deal more. When it is disposed off, the best way will be by auction, to give 12 months' credit, taking good security, and to give two months' previous notice of the sale. Acquaint Mr. B. Porteus that his brother's widow is living, and the land valued at £50 sterling. Let me be remembered to all my relations, and believe me to be, with truth,

Dear sir,

Etc.

James Buchanan & Co.

July 10, 1759

By Capt. Ward

Sirs:

I received yours by Captain Necks with an account of the balance due to me from the estate of J. Buchanan, Esq., being £173 17s 9d the 8th of February last. I imagine this sum will be sufficient to defray my son's expences to the 8 of February next; however, when it is expended, you will then supply him at the rate of £40 a quarter. If he should exceed ten pounds more a quarter and does it with prudence and discretion, I shall have no objections.

The memorial of the merchants was penned with so much good sense and candour, their request so reasonable, that it is no wonder you were surprised at the reception it met with. A royal instruction may prevent the evil from spreading, but an act of Parliament would tear it up by the rootes.
My next remittance to you will be in tobo. The prospect at present is favorable, and I hope to have 20 hhds ready to ship to you by Christmas.

By this opportunity I have remitted you a bill of exchange drawn by B. Harrison on John Bland for £227 7s 10d, seventy pounds of which you are instructed to place to my credit and the remaining sum of £157 7s 10d to the credit of Mr. Jenings. This bill is indorsed to me by Mr. Burwell Bassett; he is a young gentleman who cannot have many runers, and his estate is a good one. Upon this consideration, as Mr. Jenings has been frequently disapointed, if Mr. Bland shoud refuse to pay this bill, you will be pleased to satisfie Mr. Jenings for his part and send me duplicates of protest of the bill.

As I sincerely wish you success in business, it will be with pleasure I contribute what lies in the power of,

Sirs,

Your mo. h'ble serv't.

Mr. Athawes

August 1, 1759

By Ward

Captain Finch is not yet arrived. It is supposed he is lost, as he was very leakey and a hard gale of wind when the fleet parted with him. My wife and daughters will be a good deal disapointed by this accident, and they have desired me with much earnestness to press and intreat the favor of you to send the goods wrote for by my daughter Betty and addressed to Miss Molly Athawes, as well as the invoice here inclosed, by the first good conveyance.
I am very much obliged to you for the insurance you made for me by Finch, and though it will not remedy the inconvenience of a disappointment, it prevents the loss being any ways considerate.

Sir,

Your most h'ble serv't.

Supposed amount of the invoices now sent for:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>£</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mrs. Corbin</td>
<td>76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Betty</td>
<td>72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alicey</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nancy</td>
<td>146</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Upon the loss of Captain Finch, my daughter Betty will trouble Miss Athawes with an addition to her invoice, which you will be pleased to comply with.

Invoice for Mrs. Corbin:

A hoop
A sack and petticoat of slight lutestring
A dark ground cotton negligee
1 ps. of purple and white cotton
4 pr. of black shoes, size small 5
1 pr. of black sattin do.
1 pr. of white do.
4 pr. of thread stockings
2 pair of worstead do.
2 pair of white silk do.
8 pair of best kid glazed gloves
4 pair of mittins
Flowerd lawn mob, handkerchief, and ruffles
1 ps. of white ribbon and 1 ps. of black
Warm cloak and hood and a hat
1 ps. of striped dimety
4 yards of muslin and a fan
1 ps. of plain lawn
2 ps. of fine cambric and 1 ps. abt. 40s
6 pr. of pumps for a girl 3 years old
6 pair of lamb mittins and 6 yds. nar. ribbon
8 yards of Scotch gause
Fashionable suit of clothes
6000 minig, 6000 sh. whites, 6000 corking pins
1000 needles sorted
2 lbs. col'd thread, 1 lb. whitey brown, 1 finer do.
2 oz. 12d, 3 oz. 18d, 4 oz. 2s, 1 oz. 8s
12 silk laces 4 yards long
2 ps. diaper tape 8d, 2 ps. do 10d
2 ps. Holland do. 5d, 2 ps. do 8d
½ sewing silk
1 ream[147] [ ]148 writing paper
2 doz. best wine [glasses][149]
1 doz. beer [and 2 best deccanters][150]
½ doz. bowls [ ][152] [siz][es][153]
Continued over[154]

Capel & Osgood Hanbury

September 28, 1759

I have wrote to you upon several occasions and by several oppor-
tunities. Nothing material hath since occurd. I wait with some impa-
tience for my account current. I have only now to recommend to you the
inclosed physick invoice and to desire you to send me as much light col-
ord cloth of aboute 10s per yard, with every other requisite, to line a
chariot.
P.S. The smoakers certainly impose upon you. My 17 hhd[s][155] by
the Anna, Captain Estin, you have sold from 10d to 11d, and Messrs.
Buchanan & Co. have sold an inferior crop by the same ship from
11 3/4[d] to 12[d].

2 gross shirt buttons 4s, 6 broomes 12s, 6 brushes 12s £ 1.08.00
2 clothes brushes 6s, ½ lb. pouder, ½ lb. Fig Blue 1.00.00
10 gross of corks and a cask of earthen ware to consist 1.00.00
of chamber pots, wash basons, water jugs, milk
pans, etc. 2.00.00
£ 5.08.00

Mr. Ker's invoice ab'te 20.00.00

P[hy]sick aboute 20.00.00
£50.00.00
Messrs. Hanburys
October 8, 1759

Of this date I have drawn on you for £100 sterling payable to the Reverend Mr. John Camm, and as his occasions may be pressing, I desire you to pay him the money whenever he applys to you for it. I am,
Your H'ble serv't.
The bills as well as the letters of advice are dated the 8th September 1759 by mistake but set right.

Fragment

[Robert Dinwiddie]

I had hopes this Wormeley, Willis and and the only consolation rising from these debts.

I am well apprised of the pre[ and very sensible of the advantage you may this money by buying in whilst they are so low, and this amongst others has been the argument I have used to enforce the several payments.

The Speaker now waits for our quota of the [£]50,000, and Mr. Byrd's trustees, from a sanguine expectation of paying off his debts out of the profits of the estate, have forbore selling, and I am well assured from good authority the produce heitherto has been insufficient to clear the demands of interest only. The shortness of the last crop prevented Mr. Wormeley's usual punctuallity, and Mr. Willis you will find his reason in the inclosed letter [I believe must sell before he can]
satisfie yours and several other demands. As soon as ships arrive to
give Colonel Tayloe an opportunity to ship his iron, he will give bills
for the plate, except for the table, which he still objects too, and
which I must endeavor to raffle off, it still being at Mr. Randolph's
where Colonel Tayloe ordered it, and the 2s per hhd will be in cash next
year to enable Mr. Grymes to satisfie that demand.

Fragment 161

[Edmund Jenings] 162

[ ] 163

\[ \text{to £225 in} \]

\[ \text{them to place to the} \]

\[ \text{to your sister's desire, it being the} \]

\[ \text{25 of October last. The remaining sum of} \]

\[ \] 164 \[ \text{is to [be] carried to your credit, as per state of account noted} \]

underneath. I am,

Dear sir,

Y'r truly affect't.

28th October 1759 Wormeley on Hanbury for his annuity
to 15th October 1759 \[ £100.00.00 \]

29th Yuille on Messrs. Williams,
Evans & Co. for one year's
intr. upon Byrd's bond to the
16th October 1759 \[ 75.00.00 \]

Tayloe on Buchanan & Co.
for interest of Thornton's bond
to the 25th October 1759 \[ 50.00.00 \]

\[ £225.00.00 \]

Intr'st of y'r sister's legacy to the
25th October 1759 \[ 85.00.00 \]

To be placed to y'r credit by
J. Buchanan & Co. \[ 140.00.00 \]
Fragment 165
[Edmund Jenings] 166 
[ ] 167

Ja[mes]
Tho[mas]
To be pl[aced]
of her Fa[ther's]
To be place[d]

Fragment 168
[Capel & Osgood Hanbury
January 29, 1760] 169

] .15 170

the
placed to
articles in your account current. That you

Robert Dinwiddie, Esq.
January 31, 1760
By the Thornton

Extract of my letter of this date

The Speaker 171 has assured me under his hand that his protested bills should be paid next April. The remittance then to be made will be £3000 at least.

Wormeley will pay the interest of his bond in April next and the whole year following.
Byrd's protested bills and Willis's bond will take a longer time. It is probable what remains of the £1000 of Byrd's may be paid. Caution necessary as to this bill, it being drawn "for value in current money received" without expressing the sum.

Ewell's 3 protested bills drawn in the same manner, current money only recovered, that is £107 18s 9d current for so much sterling; attorney's fees and charges £8 12s. The remaining £99 6s 9d paid to Colonel Tayloe to receive his bills in April for it.

Imparted to Colonel Hunter the whole of your affairs.

A. Churchill's bills on Bacon and C. Carter's on the same, Mr. Grymes assured me they would be paid, that Fielding Lewis was security to B. Grymes, and he would see them paid. When I receive them again to oblige Mr. Grymes to pay his own bills.

My best endeavors have been and shall be still exerted. Remittance in April I hope will be satisfactory.

Messrs. Scott, Pringle & Cheap
Merchants in Madeira
February 9, 1760
York River, Virginia

Mr. Meredith's ill fortune in loosing one vessel and having another taken has put a stop for the present to his trade to your island, and my only motive for confining you to his vessels was the certainty (as they passed by my house) of receiving my wine genuine; but as I cannot now be supplied with wine by that channel, I must beg the favor of you to take the best opportunity that offers to convey to me annually a pipe of the best amber colored madeira and value yourselves as usual upon Messrs.
Capel & Osgood Hanbury.
To the care of Col. Hunter

[Edward Athawes] 175

Virginia, February 10, 1760
By Capt. Mer[ ] 176 and Capt. Talman

Sir:

Inclosed is a bill of exchange for £100 sterling, which I desire may be placed to my credit. I shall write to you further by the next opportunity, and am,

Sir, etc.

To Ed. Athawes
By Jordan's ship

Edward Athawes, Esq.

[February, 1760] 177

My last letter was dated the 10th of February and covered a bill of exchange drawn by William Nelson, Esq., 178 on James Buchanan & Co. for £100, which I hope you have received and placed to my credit.

You judge very properly of the invoice sent in my letter of the 2d August; 179 it was intended as a duplicate, to replace the goods lost in Finch, which you reshipped in the Kent, Captain Donaldson, and which are come safe to hand.

I saw Captain Clark 180 in Williamsburg, soon after his return from Barbadoes. I told him I had 30 hhds of my [ ] 181 and 20 of Mr. Burwell's 182 [ ] 183 then ready, which he might send for as soon as he pleased. I expected this assistance would give him good dispatch, but the Supply [Speedwell] by some mistake is sailed without these tobos. I
have not seen the captain since, and I am in doubt whether I shall get any in the new ship. This I mention, not to arraign the conduct of the captain, who is a diligent man and I make no doubt has been usefully implovd, but to justifie the sincerity of my own intentions. I believe I shall be able to get freight in York River more convenient for me. Captain Clarkson has offered me his service, and I purpose to put on board of him 30 hhds of my [ ],\textsuperscript{184} which will be consignd to you. By him you will receive the invoices for my wife and daughters.

Col. Robert Tucker\textsuperscript{185}

February 15, 1760

I lately received yor letter in regard to the Fial\textsuperscript{186} voyage. I will write to Messrs. Hanburys by the first ship to pay your draft on them for my account the sum of £50 and to receive as many pipes as that sume will produce.

My dependance upon you and your promise to supply me with milasses and sugar when I coud have had it from York has put me to great inconvenience. My goods in the Randolph was trusted to your care. I shall hope to receive them in a few days, toghether with sugar and melasses, and if you can contrive me a barrel of good rum, you will much oblige, Etc.

300 barrel corn at Mosses Neck
140 do. at Nimcock
130 do. already dd from Corbin Hall is all I have this year. I
570 hope for better fortune next year.
Messrs. Capel & Osgood Hanbury

February 17, 1760

Colonel Robert Tucker is aboute making a voyage to Teneriff, in which I am a small adventurer. I have instructed him to value himself upon you for fifty pounds sterling, and you will accordingly give due honor to his bills for that sum. I am,

Etc.

Messrs. Hanburys

Williamsburg, April 26, [1760]

You will be pleased to make insurance for me upon the Jacob and Joanna, Captain Clarkson, the sum £800. An authentic copy of the policy would be prudent for you to send, not only upon this but every other occasion, to remove those objections that too frequently arise upon this business of insurance. I shall write you more at large in a few days.

Y'r, etc.

By Capt. Boyes Duplicate of this sent by Capt. Thompson [Brookes]

from Rapp. [Pianket'k] and referd him to my letter of the 29 Jan. and the 7th May.

[Messrs. Capel & Osgood Hanbury] 188

Virginia, May 7, 1760

Sirs:

In my last letter of the 29th January, 189 I pointed out two mistakes in your last account current to the amount of £25 18s 8d, which I have no doubt you will replace to my credit and advise me thereof by the first opportunity.
It is not easy to find out by what rule you have made your correspondents chargeable on the recapture of the Anna. There is a difference in every account and a want of candour clearly discoverable. If I had not had tobó in the same ship to Messrs. James Buchanan & Co., I should have been in the dark myself. They charge 47.15 percent according to the net produce of the tobó. This is fair and honest; we see at once the rule by which they settled with the recaptors, but you make a lumping charge and leave your correspondents to guess and devise thereby things to find out your method of settling it. Some according to your charge pay 45 percent, some 46 percent, and your charge to me is more than 57 percent on the net produce. This is one of the errors mentioned in my letter of the 29th January, to which I refer you.

As I have mentioned my tobó by the Anna which was consigned to Messrs. Buchanan & Co., I cannot forbear to take notice of the difference between your sales and theirs. Your sales are from 10½[d] to 11d and theirs from 11d to 12d, a clear difference of 3/4 upon an average upon the whole. Such, sirs, is the loss I sustain by my steadiness to your house, of which I have frequently advised you, but without effect. It is now almost become proverbial; if a remarkable bad sale arrives, they never inquire who sent it, but immediately suppose it was Messrs. Hanburys. It is only by selling tobó well and manifesting by the sales a skill and industry equal to others that your interest can be supported. You may indeed procure business and get consignments by advancing money upon the tobó and paying bills, but this is an expedient merely temporary, will cease with the occasion, and cannot be lasting. But good sales, I mean such as are at least equal to others, cannot failing of
securing and rendering a correspondence lasting; it is a kind of elo-
quence that is constantly speaking in your favor, advancing your repute-
tation, and supporting your interest. This method, and this only, with
a steady exactness, can regain the influence of your house. If these
hints shoud contribute towards it, it will give me pleasure. To find
you co-operating with the wishes and endeavors of your friends will be
advantageous to both, and success must ever attend it.

I have now shipt on board the Jacob and Joanna 80 hhds of my
[ ], 190 50 hhds whereof are consigned to you and 30 hhds go consigned
to Mr. Athawes. If you take a view of these tobaccos when they are
weighed, you will find them equal in goodness; the sales, therefore,
ought to be so, too; and that they may prove in every respect satis-
factory is the desire of,

Etc.
To Messrs. Hanburys,
By Capt. Clarkson

[Edward Athawes] 191
May 7, 1760
Sir:

Inclosed you have a bill of loading for 30 hhds of my [ ] 192 crop
consigned you, by the Jacob and Joanna, Captain Clarkson.

Y' r h'ble serv't.
To Mr. Athawes,
By Capt. Clarkson
Robert Dinwiddie, Esq.

May 5, 1760

My friend Colonel Ludwell will be the bearer of this letter, which covers a few bills of exchange, together with a letter of the Speaker. These frequent disappointments give me a great deal of concern, and I am obliged to bear them because it is necessary to act with caution. The indifference of the court in your suit against Ewell has pointed out this caution to me, and I yet hope I shall prevail at last and give the satisfaction I sincerely wish and desire, but whilst I am using my best endeavours, your occasion for this money, I am satisfied, must be urgent, which adds to my uneasiness that with the most pressing instances and importunate solicitations I have been so unsuccessful. These I will still employ and do every thing in my power to manifest the just sense I have of your friendship to,

Etc.

Wormeley on Cary for two years' int. of his bond £100.00.00
Rd. Lee on Bland for his protest 91.18.03
R. Lee on Russel for d[o]. 34.04.06
H. Lee on Bland for d[o]. 96.02.00
£326.04.09

Ben Wright on Thos. Knox £ 66.13.10
Wm. Dunlop on Patrick and Wm. Boyle and Colin Dunlop 56.14.04
John Rorthery on Peter Hen 47.10.11
D. Meriwether on Thomas, Griffiths & Thomas 57.06.08
Rob. Steele on And. Buchanan & Son & Co. 59.18.05
J. Anderson on Boyle & Dunlop 48.01.09
J. Cocke on James Gildart 47.00.00
Wilson Cary on Edw. Hunt 22.12.02
£405.18.01

Paid Col. Corbin 1.00.11
£406.19.00

May 7, 1760
The above bills were this dd to me by P. Grymes, Esq., to whose credit they are to be placed, and I could not neglect the earliest opportunity of transmitting them to you.

My friend Colonel Ludwell (for the recovery of his health) with his daughters intend home this year. He has taken their passage in a ship bound to Bristol. By him I wrote to your Honor and inclosed you a few bills, but I must defer for a few days what I have further to advise, as I am now from home.

Yours, etc.
By Capt. Boyes

A copy of the above and the 2d bills, as also of that by Col. Ludwell, sent by the Jacob and Joanna, Capt. Clarkson.

Robert Cary, Esq. & Co.

May 7, 1760

You will receive here inclosed a bill of loading for 21 hhds [ ] on account of the estate of L[ewis] Burwell, Esq., the net proceeds whereof is to be placed to that credit.

You will likewise receive a bill of loading for 10 hhds of my [ ], which I beg leave to recommend to your care. As this is my first consignment, I cannot venture upon what I should otherwise be inclined, but I hope Captain Boyes's conduct will meet with your approval, and that he may be fixed in the interest of your house.

By Capt. Boyes
Edward Athawes, Esq.

May 12, 1760

By Capt. Thompson [Brookes] a Rapp'k [Pianketank]

You will receive here inclosed a bill of loading for 30 hhds [ ] on board the Jacob and Joanna, Captain Clarkson. This tobo. was ready last November and intended by the Speedwell, but being there disappointed, I was obliged to take the first offer, and to Captain Clarkson I am indebted for conveying these tobo[s]. to you. He has been detained much longer than I expected. I hope, however, he will arrive to a good market. You will be pleased to give me the earliest advise of his arrival. I am,

Edward Athawes, Esq.

June 30, 1760

By Capt. Twentyman

4 lbs. Hyson and 8 lbs. Congou tea £10.00.00

½ hund. raisins and ½ hund. currants in stone pots 5.00.00

4 oz. mace, 8 oz. nutmegs, 6 lbs. allspice, 4 oz. cin.,

5 lbs. pepper, 4 [lbs.] ginger

A case of pickles, oil, mangoes, capers, anchovies, walnuts, and olives 4.00.00

A pair of shoes and 4 pr. of pumps for a boy 14 years old

The same for a boy 10 years old 7.00.00

The same for a boy 8 years old

8 pair of pumps for a boy 4 years old 200

3 pair of fine worsted and 4 pr. of thread stockings for a boy 14 years

The same for a boy 10 years old

The same for a boy 8 years old 10.00.00

6 pair of men's brown thread stockings

2 pair of black silk and 2 pair of black worsted

2 pair of fine cotton do.

5 pair of gloves for a boy 14 years old

The same for a boy 10 years old

The same for a boy 8 years old 1.00.00

2 pair of men's buck skin gloves
A silver laced hat for a boy 14 years
The same for a boy 10 years
The same for a boy 8 years £ 6.10.00
3 livery hats laced for servants
1 plain hat for my own use
3 ps. of fine duroy with 6 doz. coat and 6 doz. vest buttons to each piece, with silk mohair, etc. 7.00.00
3½ yards of broad cloth abt. 12s per yard with buttons, silk mohair, buckram, and lining for a suit of clothes for a boy 14 years 8.00.00
3 yards do. with dos. for a boy 10 years 16.00.00
3 pieces ofblanketing duffle £ 75.00.00

Order to Waterman

£89.01.11

I received your letter of the 28th March by Captain Hooper with his receipt for a box, the contents of which I do not yet know, as I have not seen it. But as you assure [me] the goods for my wife and daughters are ready to be shipt in the first good vessil, I have only the above invoice to recommend to you. I hope the Jacob and Joanna, Captain Clarkson, is safe arrived to a good market. As his arrival will be of consequence to me, I shall be obliged to you to give me early notice of it. I am, Sir,

Your mo. h'ble serv't.

Messrs. Thomas Rumbold & John Walker

June 4, 1760

By the Gorell, Capt. Brereton

By the Gorell, Captain Brereton, you will receive 9 hhds of my [ ]. It is all good stemd tobo. sorted and packed for the first market. It has usually sold well, and as my motive for recommending them to your care was the warm solicitations of my friends Messrs. Tayloe and Ritchie, I hope they will not suffer in the sales by passing through your hands. Upon the credit of them I have sent for the following goods:
500 yards of the best cotton  £30.00.00
9 doz. men's large yarn stockings  10.10.00
9 doz. for women
20 lbs. shoe and 20 lbs. osingbrigs thread  4.00.00
8 doz. best large broad hoes  20.00.00
8 doz. do. large narrow hoes
30,000 8d
30,000 10d
10,000 10d nails  20.00.00
20,000 6d
4000 4d
1 doz. pair large men's shoes for servants  2.10.00
100 dd refined sugar  5.10.00

I am,

Gentlemen,

Your mo. h'ble serv't.

James Russell, Esq.

June 4, [1760]

By the Hannah, Capt. Cawson

Dup'e'e by Twentyman

Captain Rawlings will dd you 4 hhd's of [   ]; as they are stemd and really fine tobos., I hope they will meet with a price adequate to their goodness.

I shall be obliged to you to send me 1200 ells of osingbrigs by some ship bound to York River.

Robert Dinwiddie, Esq.

June 12, 1760

In consequence of my letter of the 5th of May, which inclosed you a letter of excuse of the Speaker, I now beg leave to remit you his bills for £2547 5s 9d in satisfaction of his three protested bills, including the interest from 25th October 1757 to the 12th June 1760, which I hope you will find right. You will likewise receive another
bill of Armistead Churchill's on Bacon for £415 5s 11 3/4d in satisfaction of his protested bill; it has the usual indorsers, and I expect will be now paid. For further matters, you will be pleased to be referred to the next letter from,

Sir, etc.

By the Major Hardy, Capt. Cooper

Copy and 2d bills by the Hannah, Capt. Cawson

John Robinson on Hanbury £2547.05.09
A. Churchill on Bacon 415.05.11 3/4
£2692.11.08 3/4

Messrs. Hanburys

June 18, 1760

In my letter of the 26th April, I desired you to insure me £800 upon the Jacob and Joanna, Captain Clarkson, and my letter of the 7th May incloses you a bill of loading for 50 hhds of my [   ], to both of which I refer you.

I beg leave now to advise you of the marriage of my daughter to Mr. Carter Braxton, upon which occasion I shall draw upon you for £1000 payable to this gentleman, which you will be pleased to honor and place to the account of,

[Messrs. Capel & Osgood Hanbury]

July 9, [1760]

By the Monmouth, Capt. Twentyman

Since my letters of the 29th January, 26th April, 7th May, and 18th June, nothing material hath occurred, and all which you will be pleased to notice. My letter of the 18th June was only to advise you of the
marriage of my daughter, and that I had in consequence of it drawn on you for one thousand pounds sterling payable to Mr. Carter Braxton, which I doubt not will be duly honored. I cannot at present recollect that I shall have any thing further to communicate to you this year till I am favor'd with your answer to my several letters. I am,

Your most h'ble serv't.

Edmund Jenings, Esq.

June 28, 1760

Dear Sir:

Eighteen days are now elapsed, and the one year's interest due upon Harrison's bond not satisfied, I have wrote a letter to him this day to go by express and expect it will bring him to my house to pay the interest at last. I shall then endeavor, if I can do no better, to settle this business upon the plan mentioned to you in my letter of the 25 of June 1759. 214

I spoke to the president and masters of our college in relation to the affair of Brafferton Manor. 215 They would have forced me to the perusal (as they called it) of a volume of papers, but as I was satisfied of the indiscretion of Mr. Hanbury 216 in this business, I was for the appointment of another agent. This the president, 217 who is really a friend to Mr. Thompson 218 and has a personal knowledge of him, had some objections too and with all some hopes of consiliating matters to Mr. Thompson's satisfaction. This I think was in December, and as nothing relative to it has appeared, I must conclude their letter either has miscarried or, from the perplexed state of the college, 219 has been forgot. I shall therefore take the first opportunity of speaking to them again upon this head. I am not without hopes of succeeding.
In regard to my dear son, I have an anxious desire to see him. I hope he may be called to the bar and be able to return to us towards the close of the next year. So soon as I can see Colonel Harrison, you will receive further thoughts of,

Robert Dinwiddie, Esq.

June 30, 1760

Dear Sir:

Bills remitted

5th May 1760 Bills by Col. Ludwell and 2d bills by Capt. Boyce amount to £ 326.04.09

7 May Do. by Capt. Boyce and 2d bills by Capt. Clarkson 405.18.01

12 June Do. by Capt. Cooper and 2d bills by Capt. Cawson 2962.11.08 3/4

0694.14.06 3/4

I hope the above bills will come to hand before the receipt of this letter. I have no expectations of making you any further remittances before next October. I expect as usual many disappointments, but a steady perseverance and constant application I hope will at length prevail. Colonel Byrd's trustees wait for further powers to make sale of all his Roanoke estate. If this sale should be made, your debt may be soon satisfied; if it is not, it will take a longer time. I am yet under difficulties about the plate. It is still at Colonel Randolph's, where Colonel Tayloe ordered it, and as I imagine he only excepted to the table, intended to raffle it off, but he now excepts to all but the eperne, indipendant of everything else. I desired Colonel Hunter to try to sell it to the [northward], and he had hopes of doing it, but when he returned about 3 weeks ago his hopes were disappoointed. He is so
near a relation that I could manage this affair much better with any other person; however, I will bring it to some conclusion in October and then send you a full state of bonds and bills remaining in my hands. I return you my sincere thanks for your genteel present to my dafter. You and yours have the best good wishes of my family, and that you may all [enjoy] a good state of health and every felicity is the earnest prayer of,

1760 invoice to Mr. Backhouse by the Monmouth

4 ps. of Irish linnen @ aboute 4s per yard £ 50.00.00
2 ps. do. at 3[s] 7.00.00
2 ps. do @ 2s 6d 10.00.00
3 ps. do. at 1s 3d 8.00.00
120 ells of Lancashire sheeting at aboute 2s per ell 12.00.00
2 ps. of dowlass 7.00.00
4 best bed ticks, bolster and pillows 10.00.00
1 doz. 8/4 table clothes at aboute 10s a cloth and 1 doz. napkins 8.00.00
1 doz. pair of strong shoes for serv'nts omitted 2.10.00
2 hund. weight of dd refined sugar 10.00.00
3 great coats for servants 4.10.00
20 bags of salt and 4 gross of small ale 10.00.00
300 yds. kersey or fear nothing, or something of that sort of ab't. 20d a yard that is strong and warm for Negroes 30.00.00
1 piece of fine dark grounded printed cotton for my wife 155.10.00

[John Backhouse]

July 9, 1760

Sir:

The above goods I shall hope to receive by the return of the Monmouth, on board of whom I have shipt 18 hhds of stemd tob. I wish them safe to you and to a good market. Bill of loading is here inclosed. I am,

Etc.
July 9, 1760

By the Monmouth

I am favor'd with your letter of the 9th April advising me of the loss of the Deliverance, Captain Whyte, for which I am much concerned. I think the tobacco I had on board was the best I ever made, but we must not look back upon our losses but forward to repair them. Inclosed is a bill of exchange for £150, which you will be pleased to negotiate and carry to my credit.

In regard to your sending a small ship to York River early next spring, I have consulted some friends, and I believe it is a measure that will answer very well. You may depend upon my assistance; besides, a ship in York River will be convenient enough to receive your friends' tobacco upon Rappahannock.

I have wrote to Mr. Jenings that I should be glad to see my son, that I hoped he might be called to the bar and return to us some time next year, but in this I shall be directed by the advice of my friends, among whom you will always be considered by,

Robert Dinwiddie, Esq.

October 8, 1760

Williamsburg

As I left my papers at home, I cannot here particularly enumerate the several bills remitted to your Honor from the last April and June courts, but duplicates of all and a general detail of the whole are sent by three different ships, which I hope have reached you safe. What success may attend my solicitation this court I cannot at present ascertain;
my best indeavors shall be exerted, and whatever I receive shall be immediately remitted to you.

Mr. Byrd's affairs are in a terrible situation. I am told when all demands are satisfied very little will remain for his use.

The assembly are highly [ ] with their agent. He has assured them of his having the countenance of my Lord Halifax. Every future aid of Parliament will be "commen[d]ed to his negotiation." They are now preparing an address and representation to his Majesty to alter his general instruction in regard to temporary laws, which have been twice enforced by additional instructions to the same purpose.

We are now in possession of all Canada. My wife has by letters expressed her kind acknowledgements to Mrs. Dinwiddie for her trouble in buying my daughter's head, and I am to return you my kind thanks for your kind present to her. I am,

Etc.

Edmund Jenings, Esq.

October 8, 1760

Williamsburg

The proposed regulation of your affairs as mentioned in my letter of the 25th of June 1759 has been obstructed by the failure of Colonel Harrison in his promised payment either of part of the principal or the last year's interest. This gentleman plagues and perplexes me. I shall wait no longer than this month; I then must have recourse to law. It will be two or three years before it can be determined. I wish the Parliament would interpose and secure the sterling creditor from the evil of paper money. The trade will suffer when they think little of
it. Harrison's bond to you is for £1006 sterling conditioned to be paid in good bills of exchange in London, and this bond entered into before the emission of paper money, when judgment is obtained the court will settle at what rate of exchange it shall be discharged in paper money. What is the opinion of council at home upon this point?

I am at present under some doubts whether Byrd's bond must not be put in suite, but that I shall determine and inform you. Wormeley's annuity and interest of Thornton's bond will be paid in a few days.

I have just received a letter from my son. He talks of coming in next year, in consequence of a letter of mine wrote some time ago, but as it is his interest I have at heart, if you think it will be more service to him to continue his studies at the Temple, you will advise him for the best not only for his sake but for that of,

Etc.

James Buchanan, Esq.

October 27, [1760]

Inclosed are sundry bills as noted underneath, which are to be placed to the credit of Edmund Jenings, Esq.

Viz:

Benjamin Harrison on John Bland in satisfaction of the interest upon his bond to the 10th June £ 50.06.00

Wormeley's bills on Athawes in satisfaction of his annuity to the 16th of October 1760 100.00.00

Thornton of J. Buchanan & Co. in satisfaction of the interest upon his bond to the 25th of October 1760 50.00.00
Upon the credit of these bills I shall draw upon you for £10 payable to Mrs. A. Randolph to be placed to the debit of Mr. Jenings, which sum with the interest upon Byrd's bond will make up the interest of her legacy to 25 October 1760.

Edmund Jenings, Esq.
October 27, 1760

I have by this opportunity remitted to Mr. James Buchanan & Co. the following bills to be placed to your credit. As above.

The interest of Byrd's bond to the 16th October 1760 being £75, I shall pay to your sister and draw upon Mr. Buchanan upon your account for £10 to make up the full interest of her legacy to the 25th October 1760.

Robert Dinwiddie, Esq.
October 27, 1760

This only serves to inclose you a bill of exchange drawn by Mr. Moore on Knox for £96 12s 5d in satisfaction of his protest. I shall write before the end of the court.

Robert Dinwiddie
November 11, 1760

By the 3 Sisters
Honorable Sir:

My last inclosed to you Bernard More's bill on Knox for £96 12s 5d in satisfaction of his protest. This was all I was able to collect the last court.
The inclosed advertisement will inform you of the time and sale of Colonel Byrd's estate.\textsuperscript{234} As credit is hereby given to the 25th of October next, I imagine it is not till then you can expect payment of the debt due you. I shall, however, attend the sale and use my endeavors to expedite the payment. Mr. Willis\textsuperscript{235} has likewise advertised the sale of 80 Negroes about the same time and has given credit to the 1st January 1762, allowing 5 percent for ready payment, so that we must have a little patience for some time longer with this gentleman. Mr. Wormeley\textsuperscript{236} tells me that Mr. Nelson\textsuperscript{237} has promised to lend him money to pay his debts, the effect of which we shall see at the Court of Oyer.

Charles Carter, Jr.,\textsuperscript{238} Ben Grymes,\textsuperscript{239} and Armistead Churchill's\textsuperscript{240} respective protests (the last indeed was renewed in June, but I hear is to be again returned) all indorsed by Philip Grymes, Esq., the credit of the drawers of these bills is at a very low ebb, and as you originally received these bills upon the honor of the indorser, I would propose to your Honor to write to this purpose to Mr. Philip Grymes and acquaint him that to him only you look for payment, that if they were not satisfied upon the receipt of your letter, you had instructed Mr. Robert Nicholas\textsuperscript{241} to take them out of my hands and put them in suit. I know he will grumble a good deal and perhaps curse you in his heart, but, as I believe, it will hasten the payment, and so you get your money, I shall be satisfied. Mr. George Braxton sold 20 Negroes last December, the payment to be made this December, when I expect his protest will be discharged.

Mercer's\textsuperscript{242} suit against you upon a writ of error is given in his favor. The court adjudged to him the restitution of £148 3s 6\textsuperscript{1/2}d beside the cost. I implored Mr. Nicholas to assist the attorney,
notwithstanding which the court were unanimous to prevent attachments that would increase charges and probably make some confusion and delay of payment (of which these do not want already sufficient pretences). I have thought it adviseable to pay the judgment.

Trent's suit against you was likewise tried this court. The jury brought in their verdict for upwards of £800. Mr. Nicholas appeared for you, and, least the court should throw this sum upon you, he desired every circumstance might be particularly minuted, that it might appear upon an appeal to be entirely a government concern. This matter being urged with some warmth by Mr. Nicholas and insisted upon by me produced the desired effect. The governor took the advise of the council privately upon the bench and then acquainted Mr. Mercer, who appeared for Trent, and Mr. Nicholas that the government would pay it. Thus the matter ended.

I could have wished to have sent you a more satisfactory detail of your affairs. With my best respects to Mrs. Dinwiddie and the young ladys, and my sincere wishes for your health, I remain,

Messrs. James Buchanan & Co.

November 12, 1760

Inclosed is a small bill of exchange for £10 drawn by Willis on Cary & Co. You will be pleased to receive and place it to my credit.

The Randolph arrived a few days ago. I have received no letters by her. The crops are very short upon James River and indeed generally through the country. Colonel Tayloe informs me of your sending Captain Thomson to Rapphannock in a ship of aboute 400 hhds. I doubt he will load with difficulty, even if you shoud not send a ship to York as you
once proposed. One ship, I believe, is sufficient for both rivers, but
the gentlemen upon York are not so willing to send their tobo. round to
Rappahannock as the gentlemen upon Rappahannock are to send round to
York. One or other shall have my assistance.

I must intreat the favor of Mr. Hyndman to write to his correspond­
ent in Scotland to engage me a school master for my younger sons, and
shoud he procure me a gentleman of a good character, it will give me
great satisfaction and very much oblige,

By the 3 Sisters, duplicate to the care of Mr. Prentis

Wrote to my son under this cover and Mr. B. Porteus to send list of Negroes by next

opportunity

Robert Cary, Esq.

December 13, 1760

d to Mr. Mills to go on board the 3 Sisters, Capt. Gordon

Duplicate to the care of Mr. Prentis

Triplicate by Richard, Capt. Aust.

I have received yor several letters of different dates advising me
of the arrival of Boyes and the state of the market, etc. Our crops
this year will fall short of the last both in quality and quantity. I
believe it will not exceed half in weight, though it may in the number
of hhds.

The executors of my brother's estate propose to send to your
address 20 hhds, the neat proceeds whereof is to be placed to my credit
to discharge in part a debt due to me. I shall endeavor to have it shipt
in Boyes in company with mine to you, and as I am allowed the discounts
from others when they have money in hand sufficient for the purpose, I
shall hope and expect from your justice the same indulgence under the same circumstances. In order therefore to receive this benefit upon every future consignment, I beg leave here to inclose you a bill of exchange for six hundred and eighty pounds sterling, which you will be pleased to negotiate and place to the credit of,
NOTES TO THE BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

1. Daniel Blake Smith discusses the opportunities provided by a large cousinry and the subsequent decline, after 1750, in the importance of extended kinship ties in *Inside the Great House: Planter Life in Eighteenth Century Chesapeake Society* (Ithaca, N.Y., 1980). Kinship ties seem to have remained important for Corbin, who grew up in the Golden Age.


4. Corbin to Receiver General John Roberts, July 29, 1762, Corbin Letterbook, Colonial Williamsburg. For Corbin's correspondence with various merchants, see his letterbook, passim. For England as "home," see Corbin's letters to Robert Dinwiddie, May 5, 1760, and to Edmund Jenings, Oct. 8, 1760, Corbin Letterbook.


6. Corbin genealogy, VMHB, XXIX (1921), 374-375. Alice and her sisters were the progenitors of many Middlesex County families; see Darrett B. and Anita H. Rutman, "'Now-Wives and Sons-in-Law': Parental Death in a Seventeenth-Century Virginia County," in Thad W. Tate and David L. Ammerman, eds., *The Chesapeake in the Seventeenth Century: Essays on Anglo-American Society* (Chapel Hill, N.C., 1979), 155. Henry Corbin stood security for Alice when she qualified as administratrix of Rowland Burnham's estate Jan. 14, 1656; Corbin genealogy, VMHB, XXIX (1921), 376. The children were: Letitia (1657-1706), who married Richard Lee; Alice (1660-?), who married Philip Lightfoot; Winifred (1662-ca. 1711), who married Leroy Griffen; Ann (1664-?), who married William Tayloe; Henry (1667-1669); Thomas (ca. 1668-post 1732); Gawin (ca. 1669-1744); and Frances (?-1713), who married Edmund Jenings; VMHB, XXIX (1921), 380-382. Records of the births and baptisms of Letitia ("Lettice"), Alice, Winifred, Ann, and Henry appear in *The Parish Register of Christ Church, Middlesex County, Va., from 1653 to 1812* (Richmond, Va., 1897), 10.


10. Ibid., 378.


13. Ibid., XIV, 9.


15. Corbin genealogy, VMHB, XXIX (1921), 520-522. The Corbin pedigree becomes somewhat confused here. The genealogy in VMHB lists two more daughters, Jenny, who married John Bushrod, and Alice, who married Benjamin Needler, with the notation that it is not known which of Gawin's wives was their mother. The genealogy also lists another daughter, Felicia, who has not been traced, and a second daughter named Alice, who is listed as having died unmarried. The inference is that she died in infancy, and the name was used again when the Alice mentioned previously was born. Ibid.


17. Richard's date of birth is given as 1708 in Corbin genealogy, VMHB, XXIX (1921), 522. The date 1714 appears in Dorothy Ford Wulfeck, comp., Marriages of Some Virginia Residents, 1607-1800, 1st Ser., II (Naugatuck, Conn., 1963), 153. The name of Richard Corbin of Middlesex appears in a list of "Students at College from 1720 to 1735" in College of William and Mary, History of the College of William and Mary From its Foundation, 1660, to 1874 (Richmond, Va., 1874), 84. Corbin was appointed to the Board of Visitors of the college by 1757, when his name appears in an extract of the Visitors' proceedings published in WMQ, 2d Ser., XX (1940), 537.

19. McIlwaine et al., eds., Executive Journals, IV, 349, 435; V, 190.

20. Leonard, comp., General Assembly of Va., 82.

21. The order for the warrant naming Corbin to the council is in C.O. 5/1327, 211, printed in full in Fleet, comp., Va. Col. Abs., 1st Ser., XIX, 19. For biographical information on Thomas Lee, see VMHB, XXXIX (1926). Lee's mother was Gawan Corbin's sister Letitia; John Tayloe's mother was Gawan's sister Ann; Corbin genealogy, VMHB, XXIX (1921), 301; Lyon Gardiner Tyler, ed., Encyclopedia of Virginia Biography (New York, 1915), I, 156.

22. McIlwaine et al., eds., Executive Journals, V, 373; Corbin genealogy, VMHB, XXIX (1927), 522; Louis Knott Koontz, Robert Dinwiddie: His Career in American Colonial Government and Westward Expansion (Glenendale, Calif., 1941), 183n-184n; W. P. Palmer et al., eds., Calendar of Virginia State Papers . . . (Richmond, Va., 1875-1893), II, 247.

23. C. G. Chamberlayne, ed., The Vestry Book of Stratton Major Parish, King and Queen County, Virginia, 1729-1783 (Richmond, Va., 1931), 62, 2, 63.

24. Ibid., 66, 72, 94, 130, 152, 154, 185.

25. Ibid., 172, 173, 174, 175.

26. Ibid., 66, 150, 192. I assume the surplices and paraments were gifts, as the parish accounts show no record of payment to Corbin for providing them.


28. Chamberlayne, ed., Vestry Book of Stratton Major Parish, 133, 166; VMHB, XXXV (1927), 42, 43-47. The seating was "ordered," based on social position, as in Puritan New England. As many as 25 members of the congregation were assigned to one pew. A conjectural floor plan of the building appears in Mason, "Colonial Churches," WMQ, 2d Ser., XXIII (1943), facing page 445.


30. Ibid., 206, 216. The act dissolving the vestry is in William Waller Hening, The Statutes at Large; Being a Collection of All the Laws of Virginia . . . (Richmond, Va., 1809-1823), IX, 317.
31. Dinwiddie to Board of Trade, Oct. 6, 1752, in Louis Knott Koontz, ed., Robert Dinwiddie: Correspondence Illustrative of his Career in American Colonial Government and Westward Expansion (Berkeley and Los Angeles, Calif., 1951), 210-211.


33. McIlwaine et al., eds., Executive Journals, V, 445; Corbin to Gawin Corbin, Aug. 21, 1758, Corbin Letterbook.


35. John Marshall, The Life of George Washington . . ., 2d ed., rev., I (Philadelphia, 1845), 3n-4n; Sparks, ed., Writings of Washington, I, 3n; Corbin genealogy, VMHB, XXX (1922), 84. George III might have been acquainted with Corbin through the latter's work as receiver general, but it is doubtful that Benjamin Franklin ever heard of Richard Corbin.


38. The complicated currency question and Richard Corbin's role in it are discussed at length in Joseph Albert Ernst, "Genesis of the Currency Act of 1764: Virginia Paper Money and the Protection of British Investments," WMQ, 3d Ser., XXII (1965), 33-74, from which most of my information is drawn. For Corbin's view of the relationship between currency and exchange, see, e.g., Corbin to John Roberts, July 29, 1762, Corbin Letterbook, Colonial Williamsburg.


40. Ibid., 40-41, 45-46.

41. Corbin to Edward Athawes, May 21, 1762, Corbin Letterbook, Colonial Williamsburg.
42. Corbin's article was called "Some Further Considerations on the Rise and Fall of Exchange, how far it is Affected by Large Emissions of Paper Money, with the Disadvantages from our Present Establishment of our Paper Currency to Credit and the Trading Interest." Corbin to Edward Athawes, May 21, 1762, Corbin Letterbook, Colonial Williamsburg. According to Ernst ("Currency Act," WMQ, 3d Ser., XXII [1965], 55, 59), the pertinent issues of the Gazette have not survived.


48. Gawin's will, dated Nov. 1, 1739, probated Feb. 12, 1745, is in Fleet, comp., Va. Col. Abs., 1st Ser., II, 153; a note on Corbin's residence is in VMHB, XXXVII (1929), 365. Perhaps "Laneville," Corbin's home for the rest of his life, came into the family through Gawin Corbin's marriage to Jane Lane.

49. The boys were born in the sequence listed here, although I am unsure where in the sequence the births of the girls occurred. I assume Elizabeth was born about 1740 because she married Braxton in 1760. According to the genealogy in VMHB (XXX [1922], 85), Alice was a friend of young Thomas Jefferson (who was born in 1743), and is mentioned in his letters. Letitia is not mentioned in the Corbin letterbook, although Corbin's will identifies a "Lettice" as John Tayloe's sister. See Fleet, comp., Va. Col. Abs., 1st Ser., IV, 65, 67.
50. Corbin to Capel and Osgood Hanbury, June 3, 1766, Corbin Letter- 
book, Colonial Williamsburg; VMHB, XXI (1913), 197, 204-205, 433.

51. Corbin genealogy, VMHB, XXX (1922), 314-315; XIX (1911), 310; 
XXXVII (1929), 367; Wulfeck, comp., Marriages of Some Va. Residents, 1st 
Ser., II, 152; Leonard, comp., General Assembly of Va., xix, 92, 95, 98, 
100; Va. Gaz. (Dixon and Hunter), May 6, 1775.

52. Corbin genealogy, VMHB, XXX (1922), 314-315; Leonard, comp., 
General Assembly of Va., 98, 100, 103, 110; Chamberlayne, ed., Vestry 
Book of Stratton Major Parish, 190, 195; Va. Gaz. (Rind), Feb. 21, 1771; 
IV, 74. John Tayloe died in 1794; Fleet, comp., Va. Col. Abs., 1st 
Ser., IV, 67.

53. Va. Gaz. (Purdie), Sept. 20, 1776; Corbin to Benjamin Harrison, 
July 17, 1783, in Palmer et al., eds., Calendar of Va. State Papers, 
III, 511. The petition is in WMQ, 2d Ser., I (1921), 70; Ralph Worm- 
eley, Jr., to Charles James Fox, Aug. 8, 1783, in WMQ, 1st Ser., VII 
(1898), 83.

54. Typescript copies of the papers, from the Manuscript Division of 
the New York Public Library, are in Fleet, comp., Va. Col. Abs., 1st 
Ser., XV, 39-44.

55. Ibid.

56. Corbin genealogy, VMHB, XXX (1922), 315-318; Corbin to Benjamin 
Harrison, July 17, 1783, in Palmer et al., eds., Calendar of Va. State Papers, 
III, 511; Leonard, comp., General Assembly of Va., 154-196; pas- 
sim.; Wulfeck, comp., Marriages of Some Va. Residents, 1st Ser., II, 
152; Christ Church Parish Register, 302; College of William and Mary, A 
Provisional List of Alumni, Grammar School Students, Members of the Fac- 
ulty, and Members of the Board of Visitors of the College of William and 
Mary in Virginia, from 1693 to 1888 (Richmond, Va., 1941), 14. Francis 
Corbin died at "The Reeds" June 18, 1821. Corbin genealogy, VMHB, XXX 
(1922), 315.

57. The tax list for 1782 is in Fleet, comp., Va. Col. Abs., 1st 
Ser., IV, 7 (Robert Beverley was the largest landholder in the county); 
Jackson Turner Main, "The One Hundred," WMQ, 3d Ser., XI (1954), 374.

58. Middlesex County records published in VMHB, XXXVII (1929), 
366-367.


60. Palmer et al., eds., Calendar of Va. State Papers, I, 265.

61. Middlesex records, VMHB, XXXVII (1929), 366; Jones had to have 
the entail of his land docked before he could sell it; Hening's Stat- 
utes, VIII, 159-161.
62. VMHB, IV (1897), 361; XII (1905), 306-307; XVII (1909), 94, 204; XIX (1911), 288; XXIII (1915), 311; XXXII (1924), 288-289; Hening's Statutes, VII, 458-461.

63. Alden, Robert Dinwiddie, 75, 112-113; Koontz, Robert Dinwiddie, 397-398. Corbin's Letterbook contains nearly 50 letters addressed to Dinwiddie.

64. Corbin to Robert Dinwiddie, April 20, 1758; to Edmund Jenings, April 26, 1758; to Mr. Athawes, Aug. 22, 1758, Corbin Letterbook, Colonial Williamsburg.

65. Corbin to James Buchanan, April 26, 1758, ibid.

66. Corbin to [John Hanbury], June 13, 1758; to John Robinson, Aug. 20, 1758, ibid. The new house was 52 feet long by 20 feet wide, with dormers and a cellar. The writer's project guidebook, Virginia: A Guide to the Old Dominion, claims that foundations at "Laneville" "285 feet from end to end, are the remains of a house built about 1750 by Richard Corbin." What these foundations are is anybody's guess, but they are certainly not the remains of the house built in 1758 and probably not of the earlier house either. Based on the supposed "Laneville" foundations, the guidebook prints this bit of apocrypha:

There is a story that Corbin and his wife maintained only formal relations. Living at one end of his lengthy house, he assigned apartments to her at the other end. But he would call on her formally once a year. Then he would enter his "coach and four" in full regalia and be driven the length of the house.


68. Alden, Robert Dinwiddie, 112-113; Corbin to Robert Dinwiddie, July 18, 1765, and to James Abercrombie, Dec. 17, 1764, Corbin Letterbook, Colonial Williamsburg.


71. Corbin to Capel and Osgood Hanbury, Oct. 25, 1765, Corbin Letterbook, Colonial Williamsburg.


73. Corbin to Philip Ludwell, Nov. 16, 1765, Corbin Letterbook, Colonial Williamsburg.

74. Corbin to Edmund Jenings, Feb. 1, 1766, and to John Roberts, Feb. 8, 1766, Corbin Letterbook, Colonial Williamsburg.

75. Ernst, "Robinson Scandal," VMHB, LXXVII (1969), 158, 169; Corbin to Robert Dinwiddie, June 3, 1766, and to the Rev. Beilby Porteus, June 3, 1766, Corbin Letterbook, Colonial Williamsburg. Corbin reminded Porteus that John Randolph was married to the minister's cousin (on his mother's side) Ariana Jenings, who was also Corbin's first cousin once removed.


77. Va. Gaz. (Dixon and Hunter), May 6, 1775; Va. Gaz. (Pinkney), May 4, 1775; "Williamsburg--The Old Colonial Capital," WMQ, 1st Ser., XVI (1907), 44-46. Dixon and Hunter's paper also carried news of Gawin Corbin's appointment to the council.

79. Lord Dunmore to Lord Dartmouth, July 12, 1775, English Records Relating to Virginia, VMHB, XIX (1911), 312.


82. This letter was printed in Va. Gaz. (Purdie), March 1, 1776.


88. Ibid., 1007.

89. Ibid., 1033.


93. Ibid., 66.
NOTES TO INTRODUCTION TO THE LETTERBOOK

1. As distinct from the letters pertaining to public, or government, business which Corbin wrote after becoming deputy receiver general in 1762. These letters do not fall within the scope of this thesis. For a description of the Corbin Papers collection, see Thad W. Tate, "Richard Corbin's Virginia," Manuscripts, VII, no. 3 (1955), 150-153.

2. See Corbin to Gawin Corbin, Aug. 21, 1758.

3. Anyone with an orthographic interest in Corbin's letters should examine the original in the archives of the Colonial Williamsburg Research Department, Williamsburg, Va.

4. See Corbin to Capel & Osgood Hanbury, April 12, 1759. For examples of letters out of chronological order, see the letterbook, passim.

5. Corbin to Robert Dinwiddie, May 7, 1759.


7. For information on the Hanburys, see the notes to Corbin to Robert Dinwiddie, April 20, 1758, and to Hill, Lamar & Hill, Nov. 10, 1758, in the letterbook.

8. See the fragment, Corbin to [Capel & Osgood Hanbury, Jan. 29, 1760] in the letterbook.

9. Corbin to Capel & Osgood Hanbury, April 12, 1759.

10. Corbin to [John Hanbury], June 13, 1758.

11. Corbin to Capel & Osgood Hanbury, Dec. 30, 1758; April 12, 1759; May 7, 1760.

12. Corbin to Capel & Osgood Hanbury, April 12, 1759; June 27, 1761, Corbin Letterbook, Colonial Williamsburg.

13. Corbin to Capel & Osgood Hanbury, July 22, 1762, Corbin Letterbook, Colonial Williamsburg. The Hanburys may have had a hand in securing the position for Corbin.

15. See the biographical sketch.

16. Corbin to Dinwiddie, June 16, 1758; June 12, 1760.

17. Corbin to Dinwiddie, April 20, 1758.

18. Corbin to Dinwiddie, April 26, 1758.

19. Corbin to Dinwiddie, June 25, 1759.

20. Corbin to Dinwiddie, Nov. 8, 1758; April 11, 1759.

21. In terms of numbers, the correspondence with Jenings actually ranks fourth. Corbin's third most numerous correspondence was with Receiver General John Roberts. However, Corbin did not begin to write to Roberts until after he received his commission as deputy receiver general in 1762. The 27 letters to Roberts are outside the scope of this thesis. The complete letterbook contains 25 letters to Edmund Jenings. This transcript includes 10 letters addressed to Jenings plus 2 fragments of letters that were most likely addressed to him.

22. For the Corbin-Jenings kinship, see the note to Corbin to Robert Dinwiddie, April 20, 1758.

23. Corbin to Edmund Jenings, Oct. 8, 1760; Nov. 6, 1758.

24. Corbin to Benjamin Harrison, June 15, 1758.

25. Corbin to Edmund Jenings, March 16, 1759; June 28, 1760; Oct. 8, 1760.

26. Corbin to Edmund Jenings, Nov. 8, 1758. See also the note to Corbin to Edmund Jenings, April 26, 1758.

27. Corbin to Edmund Jenings, Nov. 6, 1758.

28. Ibid.

29. Corbin to Edmund Jenings, June 25, 1759; Oct. 8, 1760.

30. See, e.g., invoice to Mr. Athawes, Aug. 22, 1758; invoice to Messrs. Hanburys, 1759; invoice to Mr. Backhouse, 1760.

31. Corbin to [John Hanbury], June 13, 1758.

32. Corbin to Mr. Athawes, Aug. 22, 1758; 1759 invoice to Messrs. Hanburys.

33. 1759 invoice to Messrs. Hanburys; 1760 invoice to Mr. Backhouse.

34. Corbin to Mr. Athawes, Aug. 22, 1758; to Capel & Osgood Hanbury, Sept. 28, 1759. Interestingly, except for some bed ticks, bolsters, and pillows (ordered from Charles Goore, June 15, 1758), he never ordered anything that could be considered furniture.

36. Corbin to Edward Athawes, Aug. 1, 1759. The lost goods were reshipped and arrived in Virginia by the following February. Corbin to Athawes, [Feb. 1760].

37. "The goods I received last I think are not well bought; they are not equal in goodness to the price paid for them." Corbin to Charles Goore, June 15, 1758.

38. Corbin to Hill, Lamar & Hill, Nov. 10, 1758; April 11, 1759; June 23, 1759; to Capel & Osgood Hanbury, June 14, 1759; to Messrs. Scott, Pringle & Cheap, Merchants in Madeira, Feb. 9, 1760.

39. See the biographical sketch.

40. For an example of Corbin hoping to get something from his friends, see Corbin to James Buchanan, April 26, 1758.

41. The receiver general's post brought little income for Corbin's efforts on Dinwiddie's behalf. See the biographical sketch.

42. Corbin to Mr. Athawes, Aug. 1, 1759, a duplicate invoice for goods lost at sea, is an exception.

43. Corbin to James Semple, Jan. 1, 1759.


45. Corbin to John Robinson, Aug. 20, 1758; to Edward Porteus, July 3, 1759.

46. Corbin to Charles Goore, June 15, 1758; to Mr. Athawes, Aug. 1, 1759.

47. Corbin to Robert Dinwiddie, April 20, 1758.


50. Corbin to Edmund Jenings, April 26, 1758; June 28, 1760; to Gawin Corbin, Aug. 21, 1758.

51. Corbin to Capel & Osgood Hanbury, May 7, 1760.

52. Corbin to James Buchanan & Co., July 9, 1760.

53. Corbin to [John Hanbury], June 13, 1758.

54. Corbin to Robert Dinwiddie, Nov. 11, 1760.
NOTES TO EDITORIAL METHOD


NOTES TO THE RICHARD CORBIN LETTERBOOK

1758-1760


2. Dinwiddie never received this letter. The Anna was captured by the French during her voyage from Virginia to England. Dinwiddie to Richard Corbin, Nov. 1758, R. A. Brock, ed., The Official Records of Robert Dinwiddie, Virginia Historical Society, Collections, N.S., IV (Richmond, Va., 1884), 721-723.

3. William Pitt, earl of Chatham (1708-1778) became secretary of state for the Southern Department under the duke of Devonshire Dec. 4, 1756. He was reappointed to the post with supreme responsibility for direction of the war and foreign affairs by the duke of Newcastle June 11, 1757. Dictionary of National Biography, s.v. "Pitt, William, first earl of Chatham."


5. The assembly convened March 30, 1758. On Friday, April 7, the House of Burgesses passed a bill to raise the complement of Virginia troops for the Forbes expedition, which wrested Fort Duquesne from the French in Nov. 1758, to 2000 men exclusive of rangers. H. R. McIlwaine, ed., Journals of the House of Burgesses of Virginia, 1752-1755, 1756-1758 (Richmond, Va., 1909), 502. The act for the currency emission is in William Waller Hening, ed., The Statutes at Large; Being a Collection of All the Laws of Virginia . . . (Richmond, Va., 1809-1823), VII, 166-167.

6. I have not been able to identify this individual.

8. John Robinson, speaker of the House of Burgesses and treasurer of the colony from 1738 until his death in 1766. Morton, Col. Va., 749. He was ordered to transmit the remonstrance, or address, to Secretary Pitt for presentation to the king on Wednesday, April 12, 1758. McIlwaine, ed., Journals of the House of Burgesses, 1752-1758, 505.

9. Dinwiddie claimed this money had been sent for the use of "the king's service in general," and that he had disposed of it according to instructions sent by Secretary Pitt. Dinwiddie to Corbin, Nov. 1758, Brock, ed., Official Records of Dinwiddie, Va. Hist. Soc., Colls., N.S., IV (1884), 721.

10. Edmund Jenings, Corbin's first cousin once removed. Jenings's father, also named Edmund Jenings, was Corbin's cousin, the son of Corbin's father's sister Frances and her husband, the first Edmund Jenings, who was secretary of the Maryland council and president of the Virginia council. Corbin was a trustee of his cousin's estate in Maryland and Virginia. Jenings genealogy, Virginia Magazine of History and Biography, XII (1905), 306-307. See also Corbin genealogy, ibid., XXIX (1921), 380-382; Jenings genealogy, ibid., XII (1905), 306-310.

11. I have not been able to identify this individual.


13. Col. William Byrd III of "Westover." He inherited from his father "what was probably the greatest estate in Virginia," but "he was sadly imprudent in his private concerns and dissipated to a large extent the splendid estate he had inherited." Lyon Gardiner Tyler, ed., Encyclopedia of Virginia Biography (New York, 1915), I, 161, s.v. "Byrd, William."


16. Tobacco mark.
17. On March 26, 1729, Gov. William Gooch wrote to the Lords of Trade that "Mount Pleasant," Col. Thomas Lee's home in Westmoreland Co., had been burned by some transported felons in retaliation for Lee, as a justice of the peace, issuing warrants for their arrest. The Lees escaped through a window with nothing but their night clothes, but a servant girl died in the fire. The loss was estimated at £50,000. Because Lee was a magistrate, Gov. Gooch asked the lords to ask the Crown for a bounty for Lee to lessen the loss. In 1730 Lee was granted £300 out of the quitrents. Lee genealogy, VMHB, XXXIV (1926), 104-105.

18. Corbin's eldest son, Gawin, was admitted pensioner of Christ's College, Cambridge, Jan. 26, 1756. He remained at the university until March 1759, when he removed to the Middle Temple, one of the Inns of Court in London. He was called to the bar Jan. 23, 1761, and returned to Virginia the following August. See the biographical sketch. Corbin genealogy, VMHB, XXX (1922), 312-314.

19. "Mutilation" by the home government of laws passed by the General Assembly convinced the Virginia lawmakers that they needed a permanent agent to promote their interests in England. James Abercrombie, or Abercomby, was appointed agent for the colony in Jan. 1753. Morton, Col. Va., 789.

20. Abercrombie angered the burgesses by opposing them in the pistole fee controversy and in the dispute over issuing paper money. As a result, the house decided it wanted an agent of its own, independent of the governor and the council. In Feb. 1759 the house appointed Major Edward Montague of the Middle Temple as its agent for 7 years. Morton, Col. Va., 789-790.

21. See the note on John Hanbury in Corbin to Robert Dinwiddie, April 20, 1758, above.

22. Tobacco mark.

23. Blank space in ms.; supplied from reference in Corbin to James Buchanan, April 26, 1758.


26. The letter is not dated in the ms.; most likely it should be dated April 26, 1758, as 3 letters immediately preceding this one and 2 following it bear this date.

28. See the note on Jenings in Corbin to Robert Dinwiddie, April 20, 1758, above.

29. Blank space in ms.

30. Perhaps the name intended is "Ewell."


32. Jenings's sister Ariana married John Randolph, who became attorney general of Virginia. The will of the elder Edmund Jenings, dated March 10, 1756, proved March 24, includes this provision: "To Honorable Colonel Richard Corbin of Virginia in North America, £1700 in trust to pay to my daughter Ariana Randolph the interest without control of her husband, and after her death said money to my grandson and god son Edmund Randolph, if he survive his mother, but if not, then to my said daughter's children and grandchildren surviving." Jenings genealogy, VMHB, XII (1905), 306-307, 309.


34. Perhaps Deputy Receiver General Philip Grymes, the "PG" of Corbin's letter to Robert Dinwiddie of March 20, 1758.

35. The Court of Oyer and Terminer was a special court held between the April and Oct. sessions of the General Court. The governor had the right to appoint the justices of the court. He customarily appointed the members of the council, who also comprised the General Court. Morton, Col. Va., 472.

36. In the ms. this letter is not addressed. A comparison with another letter to the Hanbury firm suggests that this letter was addressed to John Hanbury. Corbin's letter to Capel & Osgood Hanbury, dated June 7, 1760 (below), mentions his long association with the Hanburys, as does this letter. Also, both letters mention the poor tobacco prices he has received from the Hanburys.

37. A Mr. Athawes and one of the Hanburys were part of a delegation of merchants trading to Virginia which petitioned the ministry Dec. 13, 1765, to request support "in the intended application to Parliament for the relief of the colonies." Virginia Gazette (Purdie and Dixon), March
21, 1766. He was identified as "a Virginia merchant" when news of his death was published in the Gazette (Purdie and Dixon) Feb. 4, 1768. Corbin's letters to Athawes, and the comparisons Corbin made of Athawes to the Hanburys, clearly indicate that Edward Athawes was one of Corbin's most important and profitable correspondents.


40. Ms. blotted.
41. Ms. illegible.
42. Ms. blotted.
43. Ms. blotted.
44. Ms. blotted.
45. Ms. illegible.
46. Ms. illegible.
47. I have not been able to identify this merchant further.
48. Tobacco mark.
49. I.e., John Tayloe, Corbin's second son. He is undoubtably the "boy 12 years old" mentioned below.
50. I.e., Richard, Corbin's third son. He is undoubtably the "boy 8 years" listed below.
51. Or "dowlas," a coarse kind of linen. This cloth was common in the 16th and 17th centuries. Later the term was applied to a strong calico made in imitation of the earlier linen fabric. OED. s.v. "dowlas."
52. Without doubt Thomas, Corbin's fourth son.
53. Apparently Richard Bland, who married into the Harrison family. He sided against Gov. Dinwiddie in the pistole fee controversy. He wrote the Two-Penny Act of 1757. He opposed the Stamp Act and the Revenue Act. He was a member of the Committee of Correspondence of 1773, a delegate to First Continental Congress in 1774 and to the Virginia Convention in 1775. He was a member of the Committee of Safety in 1775 and


55. I.e., "Mr. [Philip] Grymes," the deputy receiver general. See Dinwiddie to Corbin, ibid.

56. Brafferton was the Yorkshire manor, purchased by the executors of Robert Boyle's estate, half the income of which was to go to the College of William and Mary for the support of the Indian school, while the other half went to Harvard for similar purposes. J. E. Morpurgo, Their Majesties' Royall Colledge: William and Mary in the Seventeenth and Eighteenth Centuries (Williamsburg, Va., 1976), 33-34.

57. A slip of the pen for "Porteus," meaning either the Rev. Beilby Porteus or his brother Edward, with both of whom Corbin corresponded. See Corbin's letter to the Rev. Beilby of Jan. 1, 1759, and to Edward of July 3, 1759.

58. Carter (1710-1778), the meticulous and ascerbic diarist, wrote pamphlets supporting the position of the House of Burgesses in the pistole fee controversy, the Two-Penny Act dispute, and the paper money conflict. Jack P. Greene, ed., The Diary of Colonel Landon Carter of Sabine Hall, 1752-1778 (Charlottesville, Va., 1965), 7; see also Greene, "Landon Carter and the Pistole Fee Dispute," WMQ, 3d Ser., XIV (1957), 66-68.


60. Or "Gaines." A Harry Gaines was burgess for King William Co. in 1766-1767 and a major in the militia. He died in 1767. Ibid., I, 240, s.v. "Gaines, Harry."


62. A David Ker witnessed the will of Philip Rootes of King and Queen Co. in 1756. Perhaps he was a neighbor of the Corbins. Beverley Fleet, comp., Virginia Colonial Abstracts, 1st Ser. (Richmond, Va., n.d.), IV, 79, 80.

64. The Rootes family of "Rosewall" were King and Queen Co. neighbors of the Corbins. Thomas Reade Rootes was named one of the executors of the will of his father Philip Rootes in 1756. Thomas Rootes is said to have died in 1762. Fleet, comp., Va. Col. Abs., 1st Ser., IV, 79, 80; Tyler, ed., Encyclopedia of Va. Bio., I, 317, s.v. "Rootes, Thomas Reade."

65. For Gawin's stay at Cambridge and at the Middle Temple, see the note to Corbin to James Buchanan, April 26, 1758, above.

66. A testimony to the slowness of communications in the mid-18th century; Louisbourg had fallen to Maj. Gen. Jeffery Amherst July 26, 1758, nearly a month before Corbin wrote this letter.

67. i.e., John Tayloe of "Mount Airy," Gawin's mother's brother. See the note to Corbin to Edmund Jenings, April 26, 1758, above.

68. Richard Corbin's younger half-brother Gawin, of "Peckatone," Westmoreland Co., who died between Oct. 1759 and Jan. 1760. This Gawin Corbin married his first cousin once removed Hannah Lee, the daughter of his cousin Thomas Lee and the sister of Richard Henry and Francis Lightfoot Lee. Corbin genealogy, VMHB, XXX (1922), 310-312.

69. See the note to Corbin to [John Hanbury], June 13, 1758, above.

70. Elizabeth Corbin, Corbin's eldest daughter, who married Carter Braxton in 1760. Corbin genealogy, VMHB, XXX (1922), 85.

71. A circular under-petticoat distended with cane, wire, or whalebone hoops, worn ca. 1710-1780 and at Court until 1820. It was distinct from "oblong hoops," "pocket hoops," or "false hips," which distended the skirt at the sides but not in the front or back. C. Willet Cunnington, Phillis Cunnington, and Charles Beard, A Dictionary of English Costume (London, 1960), 108; Doreen Yarwood, Costume of the Western World (New York, 1980), 119.

72. i.e., braided, embroidered, or trimmed with braid. OED, s.v. "braided."

73. Lawn is a fine linen fabric which resembles cambric. The adjective "minionette" means "small and pretty." The noun "mignonette" is a greyish green or greenish white color, a kind of lace, or a fine kind of net. OED, s.v. "lawn," "minionette," "mignonette."

74. Also "egrets" or "aigrettes," a head ornament of plumes or a spray of gems, the term is taken from the crest of feathers on the head of the egret. OED, s.v. "aigrette."

75. A kind of glossy silk fabric. OED, s.v. "lutestring."

76. This apparently referred to a garment purchased in pre-cut pieces which the customer then sewed together. Editor's conversation with Jeanne Ellen Whitney, Historic Sites Apprentice, Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, Williamsburg, Va., Aug. 1981.
77. Alice Corbin, Corbin's second eldest daughter. Corbin genealogy, VMHB, XXX (1922), 85.

78. I have not been able to determine who this person is. Apparently, she is the "Nancy" listed with Mrs. Corbin, "Betty" (Elizabeth), and "Alicey" (Alice) in Corbin's letter to Athawes of Aug. 1, 1759 (see below). The Corbin genealogy in VMHB (XXX [1922], 85) lists a daughter Letitia, but no Ann or Nancy. Corbin's letters make no mention of a Letitia, while his will mentions a Letitia, but no Ann or Nancy. The will is in Fleet, comp., Va. Col. Abs., 1st Ser., IV, 63-66.

79. Perhaps this refers to Alice.

80. This may refer to the otherwise unidentified "ANC."

81. In the ms. this invoice breaks over two pages. Corbin "brought over" the subtotal of the first page to the top of the second page, which begins here.

82. "A very fine and soft silk material made both plain and twilled. . . ." OED, s.v. "sarsenet."

83. Dimity, a stout cotton material with stripes or figures woven into the fabric. Undyed, it was used for bed and bedroom hangings and sometimes for clothing. OED, s.v. "dimity."

84. "Minikin," a small kind of pin. OED, s.v. "minikin."

85. A brown color tending to white, whitish brown, or pale brown, the adjective was most often used to describe paper. OED, s.v. "whity-brown."

86. Francis, Richard Corbin's fifth son, was born in 1759. Perhaps Mrs. Corbin was already pregnant when Corbin made up this invoice, and he ordered this material in anticipation of the new arrival.

87. I.e., John Tayloe.

88. I.e., Richard.

89. I.e., Thomas.

90. The several Virginia Gazettes of the late 1760s and 1770s contain numerous advertisements for various types of shoes and slippers by Didsbury available in Williamsburg, Richmond, Petersburg, and Fredericksburg. See the references in Lester J. Cappon and Stella F. Duff, Virginia Gazette Index, 1736-1780 (Williamsburg, Va., 1950), s.v. "Didsbury, John."

91. Ms. illegible. The unreadable figure must be "£1" to make up the invoice total of £150.

92. See the note to Corbin to Gawin Corbin, Aug. 21, 1758, above.
93. This is an error on Corbin's part. The letter in question bore the date June 16, 1758. See above. Dinwiddie acknowledged receiving the letter of June 16 and also this letter, for which he gave the date as Sept. 13, in his letter written to Corbin in Nov. 1758. Brock, ed., Official Records of Dinwiddie, Va. Hist. Soc., Colls., N.S., IV (1884), 721-723.


95. I.e., Jenings's sister, Ariana Jenings Randolph (Mrs. John Randolph).

96. Corbin's cousin, the elder Edmund Jenings, who made Corbin a trustee of the Jenings estate in Maryland and Virginia. Jenings genealogy, VMHB, XII (1905), 306-307. See also the note to Corbin to Jenings, April 26, 1758, above.

97. Ms. blurred. See Corbin to Robert Dinwiddie, Nov. 8, 1758, below.

98. See Corbin to Robert Dinwiddie, Nov. 8, 1758, below.

99. A large cask for wine and other liquids or provisions. It usually held 105 imperial gallons. OED, s.v. "pipe."

100. "Capel Hanbury was a younger brother of John Hanbury. Upon the death of John, still another brother, Osgood, entered the firm. The Hanburys were among London's most prominent merchants interested in colonial trade." Louis Knott Koontz, ed., Robert Dinwiddie: Correspondence Illustrative of his Career in American Colonial Government and Westward Expansion (Berkeley and Los Angeles, Calif., 1951), 584n.

101. See the note to Corbin to Hill, Lamar & Hill, Nov. 10, 1758, above.

102. Tobacco mark.

103. Tobacco mark.

104. Tobacco mark (same mark as above, n. 102).

105. One who retakes by capture, especially at sea. OED, s.v. "recaptor." Apparently the Anna, taken by the French in mid-ocean (Robert Dinwiddie to Corbin, Nov. 1758, Brock, ed., Official Records of Dinwiddie, Va. Hist. Soc., Colls., N.S., IV [1884], 721), was retaken by the British. Recaptors were apparently entitled to salvage rights and fees. See Corbin to Capel & Osgood Hanbury, May 7, 1760, below.

106. Tobacco mark.
107. Porteus (1731-1808) was another of Richard Corbin's first cousins once removed. His mother was Elizabeth Jenings, the daughter of the first Edmund Jenings and Frances Corbin, Richard Corbin's father's sister. Porteus's father was Robert Porteus of "New Bottle," Gloucester Co., Va. Beilby was B.A., Christ's College, Cambridge, 1752; ordained, 1757; domestic chaplain to Archbishop Secker of Canterbury, 1762; D.D., 1767; chaplain to the king, 1769; bishop of Chester, 1776; bishop of London, 1787. After the Revolution Porteus succeeded in transferring the Boyle bequest from the College of William and Mary to a new "Society for the Conversion and Religious Instruction of the Negroes in the West Indies," which he organized. DNB, s.v. "Porteus, Beilby"; Tyler, ed., Encyclopedia of Va. Bio., I, 58, s.v. "Jenings, Edmund."


109. The Rev. Beilby's brother. Ibid.

110. In the light of the content of this letter, Semple was evidently Corbin's estate manager. One John Semple, a Scottish lawyer, settled in King and Queen Co. in 1752. His brother James, a minister, came to Va. in 1755 and was the minister of St. Peter's Parish, New Kent Co., in 1767. Conceivably, this James Semple might have worked for Corbin before receiving a call to St. Peter's. Tyler, ed., Encyclopedia of Va. Bio., II, s.v. "Semple, John."

111. An aromatic oak-leaved goosefoot (Chenopodium botrys) used as a vermifuge for children. A Dictionary of American English on Historical Principles, s.v. "Jerusalem oak."


113. I have not been able to locate a definition for this use of the word.

114. After the Revolution young Richard Corbin sought compensation from the British government for the loss of "Moss Neck" and "Richland," which were both located in Caroline Co. between Port Royal and Fredericksburg. Fleet, comp., Va. Col. Abs., 1st Ser., XV, 39-44.

115. The probable meaning is "pressed." OED, s.v. "prise."

116. Apparently one of the Corbin quarters. I have found no allusions to it elsewhere.

117. Or "Portobago," a plantation bequeathed to Richard Corbin's brother John by their father. The land had come into the family through their father's first wife, Katherine Wormeley. Corbin genealogy, VMHB, XXIX (1921), 520; Fleet, comp., Va. Col. Abs., 1st Ser., IV, 56-61.

118. At the time of Richard Corbin's marriage to Betty Tayloe, his father, Gawin, had given him 6000 acres of Gawin's Spotsylvania patent. Fleet, comp., Va. Col. Abs., 1st Ser., IV, 56-61. See the biographical sketch.
119. Ms. torn.

120. Most likely the Rev. Beilby, who was a graduate of Christ's, the Cambridge college which Gawin attended. See the notes to Corbin to James Buchanan, April 26, 1758, and Corbin to Rev. Mr. Beilby Porteus, Jan. 1, 1759, above.

121. I.e., John Robinson.

122. John Randolph.

123. Tobacco mark.


125. Probably the same Mr. Ker mentioned in Corbin to John Robinson, Aug. 20, 1758, above.

126. The fourth digit of the year is missing in the ms.

127. The letterbook contains no copy of a letter written to Robert Dinwiddie on April 13, 1759.

128. In the will of Corbin's cousin Edmund Jenings, Russel (or Russell) is identified as a merchant in London. He was originally from Maryland. Jenings genealogy, VMHB, XII (1905), 307; Charles Coleman Sellers, Charles Willson Peale (New York, 1969), 65.

129. Philip Ludwell Lee (1726/27-1775), the eldest surviving son of Corbin's cousin Thomas Lee. He was appointed to the Virginia council in 1757. As heir to the largest part of his father's estate, he was responsible for educating his younger brothers. Tyler, ed., Encyclopedia of Va. Bio., I, 162, s.v. "Lee, Philip Ludwell."

130. Probably William Randolph of "Wilton," Henrico Co., a son of Councillor William Randolph of "Turkey Island." He was a burgess for Henrico in 1758-1761 and died in 1761. Ibid., s.v. "Randolph, William."

131. The Virginia Gazette ([Dixon and Hunter], May 6, 1775) identified him as a resident of Liverpool.

132. See the note to Corbin to Edmund Jenings, April 26, 1758, above.

133. See Corbin to Robert Dinwiddie, May 7, 1759, above.

134. See Corbin to Robert Dinwiddie, June 14, 1759, above.
135. See Corbin to Edward Athawes, [February 1760], below, where the captain's name is spelled "Clark."

136. See Corbin to Hill, Lamar & Hill, Nov. 10, 1758, and April 11, 1759, above.

137. i.e., Corbin's brother-in-law, Col. Robert Tucker of Norfolk.

138. See Corbin to Capel & Osgood Hanbury, June 14, 1759, above.

139. Fearnought, a strong wool material frequently used on ships for outerwear in inclement weather. OED, s.v. "fearnought."

140. See the note to Invoice to Messrs. Hanbury, Sept. 1, 1758, above.

141. See the notes to Corbin to the Rev. Mr. Beilby Porteus, Jan. 1, 1759, above.


143. The Rev. Mr. Beilby Porteus.


145. At Corbin's direction a group of London and Bristol merchants petitioned the Crown in June 1758 against a Virginia law of 1757 which provided for the replacement of £100,000 of current, interest-bearing notes redeemable in 1761 with £100,000 of interest-free notes redeemable in 1765. The merchants also complained about a law of 1749 which allowed sterling debts settled in court to be paid in paper. The Lords of Trade agreed with the merchants but never took the matter to Parliament. In Jan. 1759 the lords ordered the House of Burgesses to enact legislation providing that sterling debts be discharged in sterling and paper debts paid at the current exchange rate. Joseph Albert Ernst, "Genesis of the Currency Act of 1764; Virginia Paper Money and the Protection of British Investments," WMQ, 3d Ser., XXII (1965), 40-41, 45-46.

146. See the notes on the identity of "EC," "AC," and "ANC," in Corbin to Mr. Athawes, Aug. 22, 1758, above.

147. Ms. blotted.

148. Ms. illegible.

149. Ms. blotted.

150. Ms. blotted.

151. Ms. blotted.

152. Ms. illegible.
153. Ms. blotted.

154. In the ms. the invoice does not continue on a second page.

155. Tobacco mark.

156. Professor of divinity at William and Mary. He was the author of the petition to the bishop of London complaining about the Two-Penny Act. He carried the protest of the clergy to England. He was discharged by the Board of Visitors in 1757 but reinstated by order of the Privy Council. Morpurgo, *Their Majesties' Royall Colledge*, 119, 124, 127, 167.

157. A portion of this letter, which occupies p. 48 of the ms., was torn away sometime after Corbin wrote it. The remaining portion has been transcribed line for line, as in the ms.

158. On the basis of content, this appears to be part of a letter to Robert Dinwiddie. Reference to a sale of William Byrd's estate (see below) appears in Corbin to Dinwiddie, Nov. 11, 1760, below. Col. Tayloe's iron interests (see below) are mentioned in Corbin to Dinwiddie, Sept. [13], 1758, above, while problems involving Col. Tayloe and the Dinwiddie plate are discussed in Corbin to Dinwiddie, June 30, 1760, below.

159. The date has been torn from the letter.


161. This letter fragment, p. 49 of the ms., is on the reverse of the page containing the fragment of a letter to Robert Dinwiddie, above. As above, the remains of the missing letter have been rendered line by line.

162. This is without doubt the remains of a letter to Edmund Jenings. Phrases such as "Wormeley . . . annuity: and "your ['y'r'] sister's legacy" (see below) appear only in Corbin's letters to Jenings. See, e.g., Corbin to Jenings, April 26, 1758. Except for the letter to the Hanburys of March 29, 1759, where Corbin mentions that his son wants to buy a watch for his sister (meaning Corbin's daughter), the only "sister" ever mentioned in the letterbook is Jenings's sister Ariana Jenings Randolph.

163. The date has been torn from the letter.

164. The first word of this line is missing.

165. All but one small corner of the folio following p. 49 of the ms. has been torn from the letterbook. This fragment, rendered line for line, appears on the recto side of the folio.

166. This address is based on tentative expansion of the word fragments which appear on the page. "Ja[mes]" could be part of "James
Buchanan & Co." "Tho[mas]" could be "Thomas Rootes," whom Corbin intro­
duced to the Buchanan firm in his letter of Sept. 19, 1758 (see above).
"Of her Fa[ther's]" could be part of "of her father's legacy," or a
similar phrase, which appears repeatedly in Corbin's letters to Edmund
Jenings, referring to the elder Edmund Jenings's bequest to his daughter
Ariana Jenings Randolph.

167. The date has been torn from the ms.

168. This fragment appears on the verso of the torn folio following
p. 49 of the ms. It is transcribed line by line.

169. The address and date are inferred from another letter in the ms.
Corbin wrote to the Hanburys May 7, 1760 (see below). In this letter he
referred them to his letter dated Jan. 29, 1760, which does not appear
in the ms. This fragment is located approximately where a letter of
such a date might be expected to fall; the next letter following is
dated Jan. 31, 1760. Also, the phrase "your account current" appears
frequently in Corbin's letters to the Hanburys. See, e.g., Corbin to
Messrs. Hanburys, June 25, 1759; to Capel & Osgood Hanbury, Sept. 28,
1759; to [Messrs. Capel & Osgood Hanbury], May 7, 1760.

170. The mutilation of the ms. makes it impossible to determine
whether this portion of an amount should be 15s or 15d.

171. John Robinson.

172. Undoubtedly the Armistead Churchill mentioned below in Corbin to
Dinwiddie, June 12, 1760. I have been unable to further identify him.

173. The Ben [Benjamin] Grymes mentioned below in Corbin to Dinwiddie,
Nov. 11, 1760. He was a brother of Philip Grymes, the deputy receiver
Benjamin," "Grymes, Philip."

174. i.e., Philip Grymes.

175. See the conclusion of the letter.

176. Ms. illegible.

177. The letter is undated. It was probably written sometime between
Feb. 10 and Feb. 15, 1760.

178. A wealthy merchant of Yorktown. He represented York Co. in the
House of Burgesses before being advanced to the council in 1745. He was
president of the council and acting governor between the death of Lord
Botetourt in 1770 and the arrival of Lord Dunmore in 1771. He died in
liam."

179. The letter to which Corbin is referring is dated Aug. 1, 1759,
in the letterbook. See above.
180. See above, Corbin to Athawes, June 25, 1759, where the captain's name appears as "Clerk."

181. Tobacco mark.

182. Either Lewis Burwell, who was sheriff of Gloucester Co. in 1767, burgess from 1769 to 1774, and a member of the Virginia Conventions of 1775 and 1776, who died in 1779; or Lewis Burwell of "Kingsmill," who was burgess for James City Co. from 1758 to 1775 and died in 1784. The statement further down in the letter that a ship in the York River would be more convenient for Corbin suggests that Captain Clark's ship was in the James, which perhaps makes it more likely that Lewis Burwell of Gloucester Co., on the York, is the man to whom Corbin refers; the captain was supposed to send for both the Corbin and the Burwell tobacco, whereas he could have picked up tobacco from Burwell of "Kingsmill" right at the plantation, which was on the James.

183. Tobacco mark.

184. Tobacco mark.

185. See the note on Tucker in Corbin to John Robinson, Aug. 20, 1758, above.


187. Tenerife is in the Canaries. See Corbin to Robert Tucker, Feb. 15, 1760, where Corbin wrote that the voyage would be to Fayal in the Azores.

188. See the conclusion of the letter, below.

189. See the note to the fragment, Corbin to [Capel & Osgood Hanbury, Jan. 29, 1760], above.

190. Tobacco mark.

191. See the conclusion of the letter.

192. Tobacco mark.


194. John Robinson.


197. Tobacco mark.

198. Tobacco mark.

199. Tobacco mark.

200. It is impossible to determine who this child is. Corbin's fifth son, Francis, was no more than an infant when this invoice was made up. John Tayloe, Richard, and Thomas are unquestionably the boys aged 14, 10, and 8, respectively.

201. I have been unable to identify these merchants further.

202. Tobacco mark.

203. See the note to Corbin to Russel, May 21, 1759, above.

204. Tobacco mark.

205. See Corbin to Dinwiddie, May 5, 1760, above.


207. See the note to Corbin to Dinwiddie, Jan. 31, 1760.

208. See above, Corbin to Messrs. Hanburys, April 26, [1760].

209. Tobacco mark.

210. I.e., Elizabeth, his eldest daughter.

211. Braxton (1736-1797) was a grandson of "King" Carter. He signed the non-importation agreement of 1769. He served in the Virginia Conventions of 1774, 1775, and 1776. In 1775 he delivered to Patrick Henry the bill of exchange for the gunpowder removed from the Williamsburg magazine at Lord Dunmore's order. The same year he was appointed to the Committee of Safety. When Peyton Randolph died the Virginia Convention appointed him to Randolph's seat in the Continental Congress. He signed the Declaration of Independence. Tyler, ed., Encyclopedia of Va. Bio., s.v. "Braxton, Carter."

212. See below in the body of the letter. This letter was addressed to the same person or persons as Corbin's letter of June 18, above; therefore, it was addressed to the Hanburys.

213. All of which letters, see above.

214. See Corbin to Jenings, June 25, 1759, above.
215. See the note to Corbin to Jenings, June 22, 1758. Although I have not been able to trace the matter, this letter suggests that there was some difficulty involving the Boyle bequest of income from the manor to the College of William and Mary. Perhaps the steward had been charged with misappropriating the funds. Whatever the problem was, it likely involved the accounting and transferral of money for the college.


217. The Rev. Thomas Dawson was president of the college from 1755 to 1761. College of William and Mary, History of the College of William and Mary From its Foundation, 1660, to 1874 (Richmond, Va., 1874), 80.

218. I have not been able to identify him. Perhaps he was the steward of Brufferton Manor.

219. The college was in the midst of the 5-year uproar which began with the expulsion of Matthew Hubbard and Cole Digges from the grammar school in 1756 and developed into a power struggle between the faculty and the Board of Visitors. At one point the visitors dismissed the entire faculty except for President Dawson and Emmanuel Jones, the master of the Indian school. Corbin had been on the Board of Visitors since at least 1757. Morpurgo, Their Majesties' Royall Colledge, 122-127; extract of visitors' proceedings, WMQ, 2d Ser., XX (1940), 537.

220. Gawin was called to the bar Jan. 23, 1761, and returned to Virginia in Aug. of the same year. See the note to Corbin to James Buchanan, April 26, 1758, above.

221. See the note to Corbin to Dinwiddie, Nov. 11, 1760, below.

222. (Epergne), "a center-dish or center-ornament for the dinner table, now often in branched form, each branch supporting a small dish for dessert or the like, or a vase for flowers. The earlier use was probably chiefly to hold pickles." OED, s.v. "epergne."

223. Ms.: "Norw'id."

224. The pronoun subject of this sentence refers to Col. Tayloe, who was Corbin's brother-in-law, not to Col. Hunter.

225. In the ms. a word is missing at this place in the sentence.

226. See the note to Corbin to John Backhouse, June 20, 1759, above.

227. See the note to Corbin to Edmund Jenings, June 28, 1760, above.

228. In the ms. a word was omitted from the sentence at this point. In the context of the succeeding sentences, the missing word should probably be "pleased" or "satisfied."

229. George Montagu Dunk, second earl of Halifax (1716-1771), who was head of the Lords of Trade from 1748 to 1761. He became first lord of the admiralty in June 1762. He was secretary of state under Lord Bute in
1762 and again under Lord North in 1771. DNB, s.v. "Halifax, George Montagu Dunk, second earl of."

230. On Wednesday, Oct. 8, 1760, the House of Burgesses decided to ask to see Gov. Fauquier's instructions from the Crown about the passage of laws. The governor agreed to show the instructions. On Monday, Oct. 20, a joint committee of the house and council reported in an "address and representation" to the king on the topic of passage of laws. The house then resolved that the address should be transcribed, signed by both the speaker of the house and the president of the council, delivered to the committee of correspondence, and transmitted to the agent for presentation to the king. H. R. McIlwaine, ed., Journals of the House of Burgesses of Virginia, 1758-1761 (Richmond, Va., 1908), 188, 190, 196.

231. On Monday, Oct. 6, 1760, Gov. Fauquier informed the House of Burgesses that all of Canada was at last in British hands. Ibid., 184.

232. In the 18th century the term was applied to the heads of powdered and pomaded hair drawn up over a cushion and adorned with gauze and ribbon and other decorations; in other words, some type of head-dress. OED, s.v. "head."

233. I.e., Benjamin Harrison.

234. In the Virginia Gazette of Jan. 16, 1761, Peter Randolph advertised the sale of 500 slaves belonging to William Byrd III on Feb. 3, 1761. Purchasers were to be allowed credit till the following Oct. 25. Three thousand acres of Byrd's land on the Roanoke and Bannister rivers were also to be sold, with credit allowed for 10 years.

235. I have not been able to identify him further.

236. Either Ralph Worneley of "Rosegill," Middlesex Co. (1715-1790), who was a burgess for Middlesex from 1746 to 1764, or his son Ralph, who became a member of the council. Tyler, ed., Encyclopedia of Va. Bio., I, 364, s.v. "Worneley, Ralph."

237. Either William Nelson (see the note to Corbin to Edward Athawes, [Feb. 1760], above) or his brother Thomas Nelson (1716-1782), who was appointed to the council in 1749 and was its president at the outbreak of the Revolution. Ibid., I, 175, s.v. "Nelson, Thomas."


239. See the note to Corbin to Robert Dinwiddie, Jan. 31, 1760, above.

240. See the note to Corbin to Robert Dinwiddie, Jan. 31, 1760, above.

242. The reference is possibly to John Mercer of "Marlborough" (1704-1768), a lawyer, secretary of the Ohio Company, and author of an abridgement of the colony's laws. His son, George Mercer, was Washington's aide-de-camp. He was wounded at Fort Necessity. He later became lieutenant colonel of William Byrd's Second Virginia Regiment. He went to England in 1763 as agent for the Ohio Company and returned in 1765 as stamp distributor in charge of the Stamp Act stamps for Virginia and Maryland. Ibid., I, 289-290, s.v. "Mercer, John," "Mercer, George."

243. Perhaps the reference is to William Trent, who began construction of a stockade at the forks of the Ohio in 1754. He was absent when the works were seized by the French. Gov. Dinwiddie ordered Trent court-martialed for his absence, but he was never brought to trial. He was an Indian trader, a commissioner for Virginia at treaties with the Indians in 1752 and 1753, and a justice of the peace in Cumberland Co., Pa. Ibid., II, s.v. "Trent, William."

244. Perhaps Robert Prentis of Williamsburg, who was clerk of the receiver general's office when Corbin was deputy receiver general. See Lord Dunmore to Richard Corbin, "7ber 5th 1775," in VMHB, XIII (1905-1906), 53.

245. I.e., the Rev. Beilby Porteus.

246. See the note to Corbin to Robert Cary, May 7, 1760, above.

247. See the note to Corbin to James Buchanan, Nov. 12, 1760, above.

248. Corbin's brother John, of "Portobago," Essex Co., died Aug. 8, 1757. Corbin himself was an executor of the estate of his half-brother Gawin, who died in 1760. Corbin genealogy, VMHB, XXX (1922) 309, 310.
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